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THE

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND.

THE
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS
OF THE
MINISTERS

OF THE
DIFFERENT PARISHES.

BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

VOLUME ELEVENTH.

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CICERO, de Orat. lib. ii.

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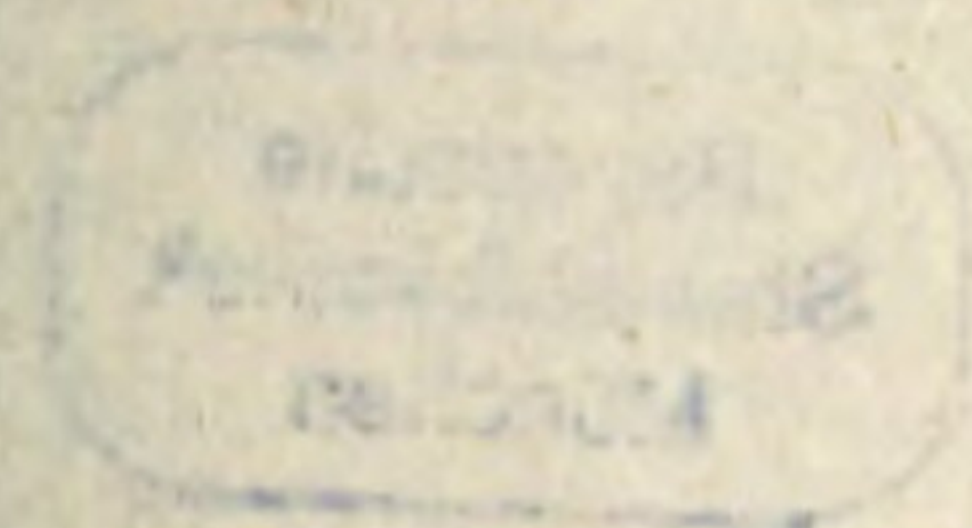
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THE

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

SCOTLAND

DEPARTING FROM THE CONVENTIONS

MINISTERS

DIFFERENT PARISHES

IN THE PARISHES

FOURTEENTH

OF THE PARISHES

OF THE PARISHES

OF THE PARISHES

OF THE PARISHES

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Total, —		56,825	69,025	15,890	3690	
			56,825	3,690		
Increase, —		—	12,200	12,200		

ERRATA.

Page 17	line 3	for this	read these
20	27	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Number</i>
21	col. 9	4	1
22	24	250l.	300l.
36	30	workmanship	working it
40	25	the	shot
62	20	LOCH ORE	LOCH ORR
68	12	after <i>Minerals</i> ,	add &c.
80	pen.	<i>nescio</i>	read <i>an</i>
124	21	<i>Coasts</i>	<i>Coast</i>
160	16	for 10d.	read 1s. 0d.
211	7	before houses	insert number of
260	25	it	delete Hence
377	8	for 248	read 348
453	25	than ifiliam	thani filiam
457	3 & 4	delete and have sold at 30 years purchase or upwards.	
480	12	for <i>Clums</i>	read Clune
	15	912	910
	16	929	927
	18	58	60
488	26	under 13	insert { 13 202
574	6	Mr.	read Doctor.
576	3	from the foot of the large print, Trofacks	
		read Trofachs.	
577	10	for Glenfinlas	read Glenfinglas
585	last	fertility are	fertility is
597	line 19	12l. 100l. to	12l. to 100l.
601	line last,	for bills	bulls
610	25	prideliiction	predilection
611	9	shubery	shrubs
614	18	of notes, Nefs signifies, &c. This whole sentence ought to be above Lenrick, and next the Rosses.	
615	line 6	of notes, for Gairtean	read Goirtean
616	15	for subjunctive	substantive



THE
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.

PART XI.

NUMBER I.

PARISH OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

[*With a Map.*]

(*Stewartry and Presbytery of Kirkcudbright—Synod of Galloway.*)

By the Rev. ROBERT MUTER, D. D.

Origin of the Name.

BAXTER, in his *Glossarium Antiquitatum Britannicarum*, supposes that Kirkcudbright was known to the Romans by the name of *Benutium*. Its present name, he thinks, is of Saxon original *.—How far this antiquarian is well founded in his conjecture, must be left to those who are best acquainted with the Saxon language to determine. But whatever was the ancient designation of this town, it is extremely probable, that its present name is of a modern date, and derived from

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A

a different

* "*Benutium* apud anonymum sequiori scriptura, et casu sexto *Venutio* dicitur, hodieque vitioso (ut puto), Scoto-Saxonico vocabulo *Kirkcudbright*, et est ad Ostium Devae fluminis in Selgoris. Veteres Britanni forsan dixerint *Caer* *gis aber rit*, quod est, *arx trajectus fluminis Æstuarii*. Quin et ipsum *Benutium* videtur Britannicâ linguâ solutè scriptum. *Ben y tiu*, quod est, Caput Devae, sive Ostium Aquae."

a different original. About the distance of a quarter of a mile from the borough, there is situated an old church-yard, which, from time immemorial, has served the purpose of a burying ground to the town, and a part of the landed parish annexed to it. In former times, a large church was built in the midst of this field, but it is now so completely decayed, that there is not the smallest vestige of it to be seen. This church was dedicated to St. Cuthbert; and the church-yard is called at this day *St. Cuthbert's church-yard*. The contiguity of this burying field to the town, together with the different ways of spelling Kirkcudbright, in some old authentic writings, as *Kilculbrigt*, *Kirkcudburgh*, *Kirkobrie*, &c. inclines us to think, that whatever might have been its ancient designation, its present name is derived from St. Cuthbert, in honour of the tutelary saint of this place. Hence Kilcudbright, or Kirkcudbright, signifies the kirk or church of St. Cuthbert.

Erection and Extent.—What is now called *Kirkcudbright Parish*, formerly consisted of 3 separate and distinct parishes; which are marked in the ancient valuation roll of the stewartry by the names of *Dunrod*, *Galtway*, and *Kirkcudbright*. These names are still retained; and the different church-yards, which are occupied at this day, as the burying grounds of the inhabitants of these parishes, sufficiently shew, that they were once separated, and disjoined from each other. The union of these parishes, or rather the annexation of Dunrod and Galtway to the parish of Kirkcudbright, appears to have taken place about 130 years ago.—The burgh is the seat of the presbytery. The figure of the parish approaches nearly to an oblong square, and stretches from N. to S. The town, or burgh, lies on the W. and projects a little on that side of the square. The length of the parish is 7 British miles: its breadth from 3 to 4.

The

The general form of it, and the districts, with which it is surrounded, will appear from the annexed map. The parish is mostly hilly, and has but little extended plain. The hills, however, do not rise very high; nor do they terminate at the top in rocky points. They slope gradually, and form a very obtuse angle with the plain. Along the sides of the hills, and even up to their highest summits, they are generally arable. Such as are not abound with excellent pasture. Not unfrequently the deepest soil is to be found at the top of the hill. This perhaps may be owing to the air, operating more powerfully upon the high lands, which are more exposed to its influence, and gradually dissolving the rotten rocks, of which the tops of these hills are here chiefly composed, and by this means forming a deeper soil.

Soil.—The soil of this parish is chiefly of two kinds, wet and dry. The wet soil is occasioned by a hard, cold till, which is generally found upon these hills; whose surface is smooth, and lies about 6 inches below the superficies. The till, by retaining the water, proves highly detrimental to vegetation. Manure, in this case, is of little or no use. For such soils, after having been covered with a sufficient quantity of marle, lime or sea shells, prove very ungrateful, either in the production of corn or of grass. The dry soil, which is the most general, consists of a light, hazely earth, with a sharp gravelly bottom. This kind of soil is about $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep; and, when covered with any of the former manures, and properly treated, it makes a most ample return; especially if the seasons are warm, and attended with frequent showers. The soil in this case is astonishingly productive, both of grass and corn. Although the lands, when not overcropped, produce excellent grain, yet, from the peculiar quality of the grass that grows here, they are particularly adapted for fattening.

tening. No parish in Scotland feeds cattle richer, or better. There are at least 1,000 acres of rich pasture grounds, which will feed as many bullocks or heifers, laid on in May, and taken off in November, from 20 to 30 stones a piece. And, if they are kept to the proper age, (5 or 6 years old), upon the different stock farms, they will attain from 40 to 70 stone weight. Better beef, in point of fatness and quality, is nowhere to be found.

Climate, &c.—Notwithstanding the wind blows chiefly from the S. and S. W., and consequently exposes this country to frequent showers, and sometimes to long continued rains; yet the climate, upon the whole, is neither damp nor unhealthy. This is owing to the nature of its shallow, hazely soil; which, by admitting the rain to pass easily through its surface, quickly absorbs and sucks it up. Unlike to deep, clayey grounds; which, by long retaining the falling showers upon their surface, permit the rays of the sun again to exhale them. Hence the air, impregnated with a constant succession of watery particles, is kept perpetually damp, which perhaps occasions these rheumatic and consumptive disorders, that are not often to be met with here. In proof of this, there are no epidemical distempers peculiar to this country. In general, the climate is remarkably healthy, and people often attain to a very great age.—Inoculation is universally practised, and with great success.

Springs.—There are no mineral springs within the parish, of much consequence. A chalybeate water, mixed with a little sulphur, has lately been discovered in a field adjoining to the burgh; but as neither its strength nor virtues have hitherto been well ascertained, nothing decisive can be said concerning it. The town is supplied with excellent spring water,

ter, conveyed in leaden pipes, from a quarter of a mile's distance. This very useful work, which cost upwards of 500l. Sterling, was executed in 1764. One half of the expence was defrayed by the burgh, and the other half by private subscribers: A great undertaking at the time, considering the revenues of the town were but small, and the opulence of the individuals not great.

Farms, Produce, Improvement, &c.—The whole

landed property is divided into 40 farms, which,	<i>Scotch acres.</i>
upon an accurate measurement, contain	12,325

From a laboured calculation, made from 8 different farms, promiscuously taken, the contents of which were exactly ascertained, the proportion of arable to pasture land was as 4 to 1.

Hence the unarable is	3,081
-----------------------	-------

These, deducted from the total number of acres,

leave of arable ground	9,244
------------------------	-------

Of this quantity, one fourth is annually in tillage,	2,311
--	-------

Of arable, there is annually in pasturage,	6,933
--	-------

To this add the unarable parts,	3,081
---------------------------------	-------

Remain in hay and pasturage yearly,	10,014
-------------------------------------	--------

About one fourth of the ground in grain is annually sown out,	578
---	-----

As every acre in tillage yields, upon an average, at least 33 Winchester bushels, there is produced annually,

<i>Bushels.</i>
76,263

Of this quantity, the farmer reserves, at an average, two thirds to support his family, feed his horses, and sow his ground.—Remain for sale,

25,421

Potatoe

Potatoes, at an average, 5 bolls per farm,	- - -	200 bolls.
Wool, at the rate of 3 stoncs per farm,	- - -	120 stoncs.
Milk, butter and cheese, at 1l. per cow,	- - -	320l.

The species of grain, that is sown in the parish, consists of bear, barley, and oats, chiefly the latter. They are all very good, though not so weighty as what is produced upon deeper soils. Although wheat is but little cultivated in this part of the country, it is however the opinion of the most experienced farmers, that the soil is equal to the production of any kind of grain; being, though light and thin, exceedingly *gracious*. For manuring the land, marle is here chiefly used. It is found more or less scattered over the whole parish, in beds, from 22 feet thick to 3 inches, and at various depths below the surface. Lime too is brought from Whitehaven, and employed by some farmers for meliorating their land. But besides marle, which is found within the parish, there is also an inexhaustible store of shells lying along the coast, which are principally used for enriching the grounds that lie contiguous to it.

Cattle.—The average number in each farm, and the total number in the parish are, as follows:

Average number, in each, of horses,	- 5	Total, -	200
_____ milk cows,	- 8	_____ -	320
_____ sale cattle,	- 30	_____ -	1,200
_____ sheep,	- 20	_____ -	800
_____ calves,	- 8	_____ -	320
_____ year olds,	- 8	_____ -	320

In all, - - - 3,160

Rents and Proprietors.—The whole parish is rented, at an average, at 14s. per acre. Some fields, however, of the best land

land are let at 2 guineas per acre. The farmer depends, for the payment of his rent, chiefly upon the sale of his bullocks and heifers; which are annually sent to the English market, about 3 years old, and fetch excellent prices. But should the demand for Galloway cattle and sheep at any time cease, in the southern parts of the united kingdom, or should the prices fall, for a few years successively, the farmer must infallibly become bankrupt; for he has little or no dependence upon the sale of his grain, which, for the most part, turns out to no great account. From the thinness of the population, a considerable quantity of the grain produced cannot be consumed in this country. Hence it must be sent coast-ways, to the English market, or to Greenock and the west of Scotland. But as this is attended with considerable expence, and besides depends upon a variable market, it does not always make that profitable return, which the farmer thinks he had a right to expect. It is for this reason, that proprietors, when granting leases of their farms, generally estimate the value of the rent, from the number of sheep and cattle which the farm will feed, and not from the quantity of grain which it will produce.—According to the ancient valuation roll, the free rent of the parish was 6029l. 8s. 1d. Scotch. Its present rent is more than 6,000l. Sterling. There are very few proprietors in this extensive parish. The EARL of SELKIRK possesses above five sixths of the whole property.

Forest Trees.—Besides those various useful improvements in husbandry, which are carried on in the parish, these which are also adapted for ornament, as well as utility, ought not to be omitted. The Earl of Selkirk has planted, with great taste and judgment, several hundred acres, with various kinds of forest trees, such as oaks, beeches, ashes, elms, birches, chestnuts, sycamores, hornbeams, rowans, walnuts, larches, together with

with different sorts of pines; as Scotch, black and white, and American spruce, Weymouth, silver, and balm of Gilead. He has also reared a nursery, consisting of 15 acres of ground; which, contains more than a million of plants, all in a most thriving condition, and soon to be transplanted for cherishing and beautifying various other fields.

Fruit Trees.—His Lordship has likewise laid out an extensive orchard of fruit trees, for the purpose of establishing a small orchard at every farm house. A few years ago, there was not a single fruit tree to be seen in any part of the parish, except what grew about *St. Mary's Isle*. Some vestiges of old orchards, scattered up and down, are still to be traced; but neither trees nor fruit are any where to be found. They must have gone into decay near a century ago. A great many indigenous plants are to be found, along the shore, and in the environs of Kirkcudbright, and especially around *St. Mary's Isle*, which would afford much entertainment for the curious botanist; but as they are all so well described by the Rev. JOHN LIGHTFOOT, in his *Flora Scotica*, a repetition of them is unnecessary. In his Lordship's garden, at *St. Mary's Isle*, there are 6 hot houses, besides forcing frames, all upon a new construction, which contain various sorts of fruits and exotics. Fruit trees, laid horizontally upon a bank, in place of a wall, have lately been tried by his Lordship's gardener, and have answered remarkably well. In short, from the various improvements already made, and still carrying on, the face of this country will, in the course of a few years, be totally changed. It will assume a most beautiful appearance. The most charming landscapes will strike the eye, and afford delightful subjects for the poet's fancy, and the painter's pencil.

Rivers

Rivers and Fish.—Various little streams, which abound with trouts, and other small fish, flow in a meandering course through this parish, and afford excellent amusement for such as are fond of angling. But the only river worth noticing, both on account of its large size, and its extensive usefulness, is the DEE, called by the ancient Romans *Deva*. It rises out of Loch Dee, which is situated at the bottom of those hills, that separate Ayrshire from Galloway. After running many miles in a serpentine course, and receiving the waters of the great river *Ken*, it flows a considerable way, till it reaches the parish of Kirkcudbright; then runs alongst the west side, from N. E. to S. W. and empties itself into the Solway Frith. The river Dee abounds with excellent salmon, sea trouts and hirlines. The salmon are sold here at different prices, from 6d. to 2d. per pound. They seldom begin to run till the month of March, and then appear only in small numbers. In May and June they swim up in shoals, with the tide, and are caught in great numbers. They are supposed to be in the highest perfection in the month of June, and beginning of July. Nothing can exceed the richness of the salmon caught within the tide mark. Their flesh, when boiled, is generally intermixed with a white curd, which feels hard; but if the fish are kept for a day or two, this curd dissolves into oil. To such as are unaccustomed to eat salmon till several days after they are taken, the dissolved curd is most agreeable. Sea trouts make their appearance in the river, during the month of June; the hirlines in July, and the grilse in August.

Fisheries.—The fisheries within this parish are let for about 400l. per annum, and belong to the Earl of SELKIRK, Mr. MURRAY, and the town of Kirkcudbright. Mr. Murray's fishery lies in the upper part, both above the tide mark, and

immediately where it flows. One half is within the parish of Tungland, and the other in the parish of Kirkcudbright. Although it is commonly called the Tungland fishery, yet all the grounds contiguous to the river, on the Kirkcudbright side, belong to the Earl of Selkirk †. The fishery below is carried on by what are called *fish yairs*. They are 13 in number; one half adapted for the flood, and the other for the ebb tide. Some belong to the town, but the greater part to the Earl of Selkirk. They are rented at about 100l. The lessee of the town's fishery is restricted by his tack, from selling his fish to any but the inhabitants of the burgh, and is not allowed to sell them higher than 3d. per pound, even at the earliest season. In the month of June he must sell the salmon at 2d., and the grilse at 1½d. per pound. This was a very humane regulation of the magistrates and town council, for the benefit of the poorer citizens, who, by this indulgence, participate a little of the revenues of the burgh.

The number of salmon, grilse, and white trouts, that are annually caught in the *doaghs* or cruives, in the upper, or Tungland fishery, is almost incredible. They are all shipped for the English market, Liverpool and Whitehaven, and fetch excellent prices, especially in the early fishing season. But the method of fishing, practised by the fishermen, in the upper works, is most destructive to the lower fisheries. The *doaghs* are raised so high, that scarce a fish can get over, unless there is an immense swell in the river Dee, which seldom happens during the fishing season.

The spars also, which are fixed across the river, in these *doaghs*, to prevent the fish from getting up, instead of being perpendicular,

† A considerable part of this fishery, called the *Sand-bed*, within the tide mark, was also unquestionably, in former times, the property of his Lordship. However, at present, he enjoys no part of this fishery. By a gradual and iniquitous encroachment upon his right, this part of the fishery was unjustly wrested from him.

perpendicular, are placed horizontally, and not near the distance from one another which the law directs. Neither is there any *Saturday's flap*, (opening of the works), observed during the fishing season, by which means not a single fish can get up till the legal time, 26th August, expires. And even after it expires, these destructive works are kept up for 3 or 4 weeks successively. Hence not only the fisheries below, but also the property of those gentlemen, who have considerable estates higher up the river, and by their charter have a right to fish, are essentially injured. Some people here pretend to say, that the same number of fish are always found to return annually into the river, notwithstanding the immense quantities which are yearly taken. But this, it may be presumed, is just as absurd, as if one should assert, that though you were to destroy 40 out of 50 breeders, you would still have as many produced next season from the 10, as you had the preceding year from the 50 breeders.

Harbour.—The harbour of Kirkcudbright is situated on the N. of the Solway Frith, about 10 leagues N. E. of the Isle of Man, and 7 leagues N. W. of St. Bee's Head, in England. It is a safe, natural harbour, with good anchorage, and shelter from all winds. There is no harbour in the S. coast of Scotland superior to it; but, being a dry harbour, it is fit only for such vessels as can take the ground. At the mouth of it there is an island called *Little Ross*. The entrance between this and the E. shore is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile. It is safe and bold on both sides. About 200 or 300 yards N. E. of this island lies the proper road for vessels to anchor, where they ride in perfect safety, unless the wind sets in from S. W. by S. to S. S. E.; and even then, if it does not blow a very hard gale. In this road there is a depth of 16 feet at low water, and 40 at high water, the rise being about 24 feet. At half
B 2 a mile's

a mile's distance, within Little Ross, on the W. side of the island, there is a small but safe harbour, called *Balmalgan Bay*. At 4 hours flood, there is a depth of 12 or 15 feet water for vessels to ride in, either at spring or neap tides; besides mooring, and sufficient room for 20 large vessels to lie, on a soft clay bottom.

Bay.—About $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles within Little Ross, on the E. side, there is a large bay, called *Torr's Lake*, or *Manx-man's Lake*, where more than 100 large vessels may lie in safety, upon a soft mud or clay bottom. At 4 hours flood, there is a depth of 14 or 16 feet water in this bay, either in spring or neap tides. Two perches are placed on the right hand, and one fixed at the point of St. Mary's Isle, to direct vessels to steer in without danger.

Bar, &c.—Off St. Mary's Isle there runs a bar, nearly across the harbour. At ordinary spring tides the depth is about 20 feet water; and vessels may either pass over, or run channel-course close in with the rocks on the S. shore, according to the wind and time of the tide. After passing the bar, the channel becomes narrow; and it is necessary that large vessels should have a leading wind to carry them up the river. Upon the shore, close by the town, there is a fine shelving beach, where the shipping lie, or ride at anchor in the channel. Here the depth is 8 feet at low water, and 28 at high water. The rise being about 20 feet, the river is navigable to Tunland; that is, 2 miles above the town. There is sufficient water for vessels of 200 tons, though it is but seldom that any except coasting sloops ascend so high. The distance from the entrance into the harbour, up to the town of Kircudbright, is 5 miles; and the widest part, at the point of St. Mary's Isle, is 1 mile and 3 quarters.

Light-House proposed.—In stormy weather, when vessels can neither keep the sea, nor clear the land, this harbour is the best in the S. coast of Scotland for shelter, and on that account is much frequented in winter. But the entrance into it being narrow, a strong tide setting right across, and no light-house to direct them, it is dangerous to run for it in the dark, and engage with a lee shore. Many fatal accidents happen by ships missing the harbour, and being driven, either into Wigton Bay, or on the banks of the Solway Frith. The island of Little Ross affords an excellent situation for a light-house. One might be erected there at a small expence, and kept up on moderate terms. It would be of the utmost utility to all shipping, and particularly to strangers, in the hour of danger. Were government apprised of the great benefit that would result from this, it is to be hoped they would think the matter worthy their attention, and cause a light-house to be erected at the public expence.

Sea Ware.—The harbour furnishes dilse, tangle, and common sea-weed. A considerable quantity of the latter is cut, made into kelp, and sold for the soap and bottle manufactories.

Sea Fish and Fowls.—Besides salmon, sea-trouts and hirlines, the following sea fish are to be found in the harbour: cod, which are sold at 1½d. per pound; scad, called here lyth or lyd; blochan, mackerels, whittings, flounders, soles, skate, eels, sand-eels, clubbocks, or codlocks; shrimps; lesser spotted sharks, called here *dog-fish*; angel sharks *; bull's heads, or miller's thumbs; porpoises, and herrings †. The shell fish are, rock oysters,

* One of these, taken last summer, measured 5 feet in length.

† The great number of herring fry found in this harbour, afford a strong presumption, that herrings are on the coast in the proper season; but they pass totally neglected.

oysters, lobsters, cockles, muscles, wilks, buckies, limpets, and crabs.—The sea fowls are barnaile geese, curlews, herons, red legged crows or daws, sand pipers, called here *land trippers*, sea pies, wild ducks, scale ducks, teals, puffins, scarfs, or black duckers, herring gulls, gray gulls, winter gulls, or maws, common sea maws, black caps, or sea crows, terns, &c.

Population.—The number of souls in the parish of Kirkcudbright, as taken, with great accuracy, at different visitations, both in the town and country, will appear from the following

POPULATION TABLE.

	In 1786.			In 1792.		
	Males.	Fem.	Total.	Males.	Fem.	Total.
In the burgh, - - -	589	752	1341	809	832	1641
In ditto, anno 1771, - - -	-	-	1153	-	-	1153
Increase in the burgh in 15 years, - - -	-	-	188	In 21 years, - 488		
In the country, - - -	282	295	577	310	344	654
In the whole parish, - - -	871	847	1918	1119	1176	2295
In ditto, anno 1755, - - -	-	-	1513	-	-	1513
Increase in the parish in 31 years*, - - -	-	-	405	In 37 years, - 782		
						Number

* There is every reason to believe, that the country parish of Kirkcudbright was much more populous, about 130 years ago, than it is at present. In the parishes of Dunrod and Galtway, now annexed to Kirkcudbright, some vestiges of villages may still be traced; and from good information, obtained from old people still alive, the inhabitants of these villages were very numerous. The cause of this depopulation must be traced back to the time of the civil wars, in the reign of CHARLES I. and CROMWELL, the usurper. John, 3d Lord Kirkcudbright, who possessed almost the whole property of this extensive parish, took up arms for the king, raised a regiment of foot upon his own charges, (levied chiefly from among his tenants and vassals), and carried them over to Ireland, from whence, it may be presumed, very few ever returned. Towards the end of last century,

Number of married persons, -	503	Number of surgeons, -	2
— widowers, - -	32	— men servants, -	49
— widows, - -	92	— women ditto, -	123
— marriages in 1792, -	14	— apprentices, - -	45
— births in do. -	65	— journeymen, -	35
— deaths† in do. -	24	— ship carpenters, -	14
— twins born in 1789,	2	— sailors, - -	82
— ditto — 1790, -	2	— persons between 70	
— ditto — 1791, -	2	and 80, - -	57
— ditto — 1792, -	2	— do. between 80 and 90, 18	
— householders, -	252	— do. — 90 and 100 \$, 2	

Number of householders in the burgh, exclusive of the paupers, taken annually at the Michaelmas head court, during the last 9 years preceding 1792 :

1783 -	224	1786 -	219	1789 -	232
1784 -	221	1787 -	229	1790 -	241
1785 -	225	1788 -	239	1791 -	248

Although

century, when the minister made application for an augmentation of stipend, the heritors of Dunrod and Galtway opposed it, upon this ground, that these parishes could not afford it, "*being a mere waste.*" From this severe blow, the country parish has never yet regained its former population; nor is it probable, from the large and extensive farms, into which it is now divided, that it will, for many years to come. But the noble Lord did not only essentially injure the population of the parish, by his loyalty, but also so sunk and deranged his fortune, that soon after his death, *anno* 1664, his estate was delivered up to his creditors.

† The deaths, in 1792, cannot be compared with those of former years, as no register of deceased persons has been kept. Neither can the births be accurately compared; because, from the great extent of the parish, and the occasional absence of the minister, children are sometimes christened by other ministers; and from the parents neglecting to register them, the names of a few are left unrecorded. They may, however, safely be taken, at an average for the last 4 years, at 65. The exact number, both of births and deaths, being accurately taken, at the visitation in 1792, may be perfectly depended upon.

§ The following instances of longevity, it may be proper here to insert. In 1784, a woman died in Kirkcudbright, who was a native of the place, aged 103. Except the loss of her sight, she retained her other faculties till within a few months of her death. And on the 28th of November 1792, William Marshall, tinker,

Although from the great increase of population in the burgh, since 1771, the inhabitants in the town are become much more numerous, yet, from the constant emigration of young people, the growing population receives a considerable check. No town in Scotland sends perhaps, for its size, so many of its children abroad to foreign countries. Many of them have, by their industry and application, succeeded extremely well. Some have acquired very ample fortunes, with a fair and honourable character.

Poor.—The number of poor people in the town and country amounts, upon an average, to 42. They are supported chiefly from the weekly collections at the church doors upon Sunday. Each person, at the quarterly division, receives according to his circumstances, at the rate of 8s. or 10s. The whole annual collection amounts, at an average, to 70l. Sterling *. At the quarterly division of the weekly collection, by the minister and elders, there is a peculiarity worth mentioning. The ministers and elders of the burgh meet together, and divide the quarterly collection among the poor people residing in the town. Then the ministers and elders of the country parish meet by themselves, and distribute what they

tinker, died here, at the astonishing age of 120. Though he was not a native of this place, but of Kirkmichael, in the shire of Ayr, yet, for several years before he died, he resided often in this burgh. This miracle of longevity retained his senses almost to the last hour; and distinctly remembered to have seen King William's fleet, when on their way to Ireland, riding at anchor in the Solway Frith, close by the Bay of Kirkcudbright, and the transports lying in the harbour. His funeral was attended by a great concourse of people of all ranks, who paid due respect to his astonishing age.

* Dr. ROBERT JOHNSTONE of London bequeathed by will, dated September 13th 1639, the sum of 500l. Sterling, to be employed in stock, and the interest to be divided annually among poor burghesses. The magistrates are trustees for the management of the principal, and the distribution of the interest.

they have collected, during the quarter, among the poor of the landward parish. As each of them collects at their own particular doors of the church, their funds by this means are kept quite separate. This practice has existed ever since the union of the parishes, and no doubt took its rise, from a suspicion entertained by the heritors of the landward parish, that if their collections, for the support of the poor, were confounded with those of the town, they would be swallowed up by the numerous beggars that generally frequent country towns and burghs. Time has shewn that their fears were not groundless; for the poor upon the town's roll are 5 times more in number, than those upon the roll of the country parish.

Kirkcudbright United Society.—In this town a society was constituted, in the year 1783, by a few persons, under the designation of the *United Society of Kirkcudbright*. The sole object of this society is to relieve the distressed, by preventing their want of subsistence while in sickness, and, in case of death, to defray the expences of their funerals. It extends also to the relief of the widows and orphans of deceased members. According to the regulations of this society, each member pays, upon his admission, 6s. 6d., and 1s. per quarter. He must be 5 years a member of this society, before he can receive any benefit from the funds. In sickness he receives 3s. per week till he is recovered; and, at death, his widow or heir receives 1l. 10s. to defray the expences of his funeral. The widow of a deceased member receives a certain sum yearly; and, in case there is no widow, the children receive what she would have drawn, until the youngest is 12 years old. This society, which was established at first by a few well disposed persons, for the laudable purposes already mentioned, has now increased in number, from 10 or 12, to no less than 126 members.

bers. Their stock amounts to 160l. The happy effects of this benevolent institution are daily felt by sick members, and by the widows and orphans of those that are deceased *.

Burgh.—KIRKCUDBRIGHT, the head burgh of the stewartry, where the courts of justice and public records are kept, was anciently a burgh of regality, and held of the Douglasses, lords of Galloway, as superiors. Upon the forfeiture of the estates of James, 9th Earl of Douglas, and last Lord of Galloway, at Edinburgh, 4th August 1455, King JAMES II. erected the town into a royal burgh, by a charter, dated at *Perth*, 26th October 1455; which was renewed and confirmed by a *novodamus* from King CHARLES I. dated at *Holyroodhouse*, 20th July 1633. By this charter, and the set of the burgh, the town council is unalterably fixed to consist of 17 persons, viz. a provost, 3 bailies, a treasurer, and 13 counsellors, who are to meet annually at Michaelmas, and vote out 3 of their number, and elect 3 new counsellors in their place †.

Revenue.—The annual revenues of the burgh, which consist chiefly of the rents of its landed property and fisheries, amount

* There is also another society, somewhat similar to the former, but upon a much more extensive scale, about to be established in this place. It is to be called the KIRKCUDBRIGHT FARMERS SOCIETY. But as it is only in contemplation, a description of it must be deferred until some future period.

† This regulation, however, has never been duly attended to. Sometimes the old counsellors have *re-elected themselves*, without making any alteration at all. At other times, particularly in two famous political struggles, one about 50 years ago, the other so late as the year 1790, the party, forming the majority, voted out no fewer than 5 counsellors, and elected as many new ones to succeed them. However, this arbitrary proceeding received, in the last instance, a check from the Court of Session,

mount at present to about 330*l*. But upon the expiration of the present leases of land, they will rise considerably above that sum. Out of this fund the burgh pays about 100*l*. to the public teachers. They are not much in debt, and what they owe arises from the lands they have lately purchased. Had they bought more property at an earlier period, they would have considerably augmented the revenues of the community. However, though they have made but few purchases, it does not appear, that they have alienated any property for a great many years past. Considerable sums have been laid out in public buildings, particularly upon a large and elegant court house, which they built about 3 years ago, for the accommodation of the courts of justice, and public meetings of the stewartry. It cost above 600*l*.

Cess.—In calculating the annual supply, which is generally done in April, we cannot avoid remarking a piece of injustice in the mode of assessing a certain class of the inhabitants. The supply, which is about 40*l*. Sterling yearly, is levied, one half from burgh lands, and from merchants and tradesmen for their respective trades; the other half is thrown entirely upon the tenants of houses, while no part is charged to the account of those who possess and occupy houses as *their own property*. Such an egregious deviation from all the rules of justice and equity, is perhaps not to be paralleled in any burgh in the kingdom. But it is to be hoped, such an unequal taxation, where one description of persons (and those by no means the poorest), is totally exempted, and another burdened with the whole sum, will soon be rectified.

Trade.—The town of Kirkcudbright had long ago a considerable inland trade, and a good share of commerce. No town was better situated for it. How it came to lose it in a later

period, can be accounted for only from the contraband trade, which it afterwards carried on with the Isle of Man. This illegal commerce deranged, for a while, all their ideas of fair and upright dealing. After this trade was set aside, large smuggling companies established themselves along the coast of Galloway, and with a high hand braved, for some time, all the efforts of government to suppress them. However, from the vigilance and activity of the revenue officers, established at the port, and particularly those upon the coast, this trade has of late gradually declined.

Manufactures.—About a year ago, some faint appearances of manufactories, in the cotton line, began to shew themselves. Mules and jennies have been erected, and weavers brought from a distance to work with the fly-shuttle. A woollen manufactory is also begun, as well as a candle and soap manufactory. Should these branches happily succeed, it would be of the utmost advantage to this town. Would government take off the high duty upon the *importation of coals**, which is the only fuel used in this place, it would afford great encouragement to these manufactories, and turn the attention of the people to a more certain profit, than they can expect from the precarious advantages which result from smuggling.

Shipping.—Twenty-eight brigs and sloops belong to the port and district: tonnage, 1053.

Vessels.

* The coals imported for three years past, within the custom-house district of this place, amounted, upon an average, to 1490 chalders. Of this quantity the town and parish take the half, 755 chalders, which are equal to 605 tons. The duty of this is 205l. The price, at the rate of 1l. 6s. per ton, is 786l. 10s.

Num. of Vessels.		Numbr of men in each.		Bearing tonnage.	
In foreign trade,	- 1	-	8	-	120
In ditto,	- 1	-	8	-	100
In the coasting ditto,	- 13	-	3 & 4	from 30 to	80
Salmon smacks,	- 2	-	3		
Shell boats,	- 7	-	2	— 10 to	18
On the stocks, an excise cutter,	- 1	-	-	-	60
On the stocks, a coasting vessel,	- 1	-	-	-	80

Account of CORN and GRAIN sent coastwise, from the district of Kirkcudbright, in the Years 1790, 1791 and 1792.

Years.	Whe at		Wheat. Flour.		Barley.		Bear.		Oats.		Oatmeal.		Pease.
	Qr.	Bu.	Qr.	Bu.	Qr.	Bu.	Qr.	Bu.	Qr.	Bu.	Tons.	Cwt.	
1790	36	4	0	15	1325	6	219	4	1622	7	754	8	0
1791	8	1	0	0	812	0	115	2	2846	3	694	0	0
1792	32	2	9	3	1598	5	264	6	3456	3	623	10	7
Total	76	7	11	2	3736	3	699	4	7925	5	2071	18	7
Aver.	25	5	3	6	1245	4	233	4	2641	7	690	13	2

Courts and Public Offices.—The burgh of Kirkcudbright is the place expressly appointed by act of parliament, where the steward's courts are to be held, and no where else. This court consists of a steward depute, who is the supreme judge, a steward clerk, and 7 solicitors, or procurators. The court meets every Friday, excepting during the time of vacation. There is also a custom-house established within the burgh. Formerly it was a member of the port of Dumfries. About 50 years ago it was disjoined from it, and established a port of its own. It consists of a collector, comptroller, surveyor,

veyor, landwaiter, 4 tidemen, and 4 boatmen. Within the district there are 3 creeks, viz. *Catcraig on Fleet*, *Balcarry Bay*, and *Pow at Barlochan Mill*, upon the river Urr. The district extends from the east side of the river Urr, where it joins the district of the custom-house of Dumfries, to the burn of Carlloath, where it connects with Wigton custom-house, being about 50 miles in length.

Schools.—Within the burgh there are, 1 rector of the grammar school, 1 teacher of writing and arithmetic, and 1 teacher of English. The rector enjoys a salary of 30*l.* per annum, the other two have 30*l.* between them. The scholars are numerous, and well taught. Both the rector of the grammar school, and the writing master, keep boarders, at the rate of 16*l.* per annum.

Church, &c.—The present minister was ordained the 27th of September 1770, is married, and has 13 children, viz. 7 sons and 6 daughters. As to his stipend, he cannot well say *what* it is. About 20 years ago he raised a summons of augmentation, with the concurrence and approbation of all his heritors; but from the violent contests which afterwards arose amongst them, about their adjusting their tiends, the locality is not yet finished. The unavoidable expence, in which these litigations have involved the minister, is not less than 250*l.* Whether the heritors will lay this to heart, and reimburse him, according to their promise at the commencement of the process, he cannot say. When the locality is fixed, the whole stipend, in money and victual, will not exceed 112*l.*—a poor sum for so rich and extensive a parish, and a populous royal burgh.—Though there are 3 glebes in the parish, yet the minister possesses only one, and it is the *worst* of the three. It is the worst in *quality*, and scarce the *legal half* in *quantity*.
He

He has no manse, notwithstanding there were, in former times, 3 churches, 3 manses, and 3 glebes. Instead of a manse he has 15l. per annum. This he had to contend for before the Court of Session. The sum is too small for the rent of a house in Kirkcudbright.

Character and Manners.—The people of Kirkcudbright are, in general, of a pleasant, social and agreeable disposition, and their morals are fully as good as those of their neighbours. Few or none are ever incarcerated for crimes or misdemeanors. Formerly they were said to have been much addicted to drinking, and perhaps there was some truth in the report; now, except amongst a very few of the lowest classes, the charge would be unjust. In point of taste, they are much superior to most people of the parishes around them. Their reading is extensive; and being furnished with an excellent subscription library of the best modern books, they have access to all the improvements in literature and politics. They are all loyal to government; and no less attached to the principles of the British Constitution, than averse to divisions in the Church. No minister in the church of Scotland can boast of such unanimity amongst his people: For among the whole 2,295 that compose the parish, there is not one dissenter, or seceder, of any denomination whatever.

Prices of Labour and Provisions.

Men servants per ann.	L. 8	0	0	Salmon,	-	-	L. 0	0	3			
Women servants,	-	3	10	0	Grilfes,	-	-	0	0	2		
Labourers, per day, from 1s.					Trouts,	-	-	0	0	1½		
to	-	-	-	0	1	2	Cod,	-	-	0	0	1½
Beef, per lb. English,	-	0	0	3	Hens, each,	-	-	0	1	0		
Mutton,	-	-	-	0	0	3½	Chickens,	-	-	0	0	3
Lamb,	-	-	-	0	0	4	Eggs, per dozen,	-	0	0	3	
Pork,	-	-	-	0	0	3½	Butter, per English lb.	-	0	0	7	

Scotch

Scotch

Scotch cheese, per stone*, L.	5	4	Bear, per boll,	-	L.	1	2	0
English ditto, ditto*, -	0	8	0	Barley, per boll,	-	1	6	0
Oats, per boll †,	-	0	18	0				

Antiquities.—There are many vestiges of British and Roman camps to be traced through this parish. Some are almost entire, others much defaced. In the *Carse of Culdoach* there is one of the former still visible, though much effaced. From its situation, it seems to have been formed with a view to defend the ford across the river Dee, which lies immediately below it. In *Little Sypland* there is another British camp, quite entire. In *Whynny Liggat* there is a Roman camp. In *Meikle Sypland* there are two British; and in the farm of *Bombie* there is one British and one Roman camp ‡.

In the farm of **DRUMMORE** there is one large British camp, almost entire ||. This camp, which is surrounded with a deep

* The English cheese is sold at English weight, but the stone of Scotch cheese consists of 28 ounces.

† The Kirkcudbright boll consists of 8 pecks, and is equal to 11 Winchester bushels.

‡ Near the Roman camp there is a Druidical temple, which was destroyed within these eight years, by the hands of an ignorant Goth, who carried off the stones, split them, and applied them to building a contemptible bridge over an insignificant rivulet, called *Buckland Burn*. The stones were 7 in number, of round granite, and of unequal sizes. The smallest at least 3 feet in diameter. In *Milton* there are also two British camps, and one Roman. (*See the map.*)

|| From the situation and extent of this camp, it is extremely probable that the ancient Britons had here collected a considerable force together to repel the invasion of the Romans, or perhaps to defend themselves against the plundering Danish and Norwegian rovers, who, in a later period, infested the coast of Scotland. At some distance from this camp, in the farm of *Balmac*, there was found, a few years ago, by two ditchers, a straight plate of gold, which was somewhat thick at each end, and at the middle. It bent easily at the centre, so as to admit the two extremities to meet. But to whom it originally belonged, or to what purpose it was anciently applied, it is impossible to investigate. It was sold for about 20l. Sterling.

deep fossée, is situated on the highest part of the farm, and commands a most extensive prospect of the Solway Frith. At some distance below the camp, upon a marshy ground, there is a large well, built of stones, in a circular form, which had supplied the camp with water; for no water is to be found where the camp stood. It is all rocky ground.—In the farm of *Lochfergus* there is a large artificial lake, with two small islands in it. One of these is called *Palace Isle*, the other *Stable Isle*. Both of them bear strong marks of ancient fortification, and were unquestionably the seats or castles of FERGUS, Lord of GALLOWAY.

Castles, &c.—In the farm of *Torrs* there are vestiges of a strong battery, erected by King WILLIAM the III., when his fleet was wind-bound in this bay, as he was going to raise the siege of Londonderry. Within the same farm there is a remarkable cave, in the precipice on the sea shore. From the entrance to the farthest end it measures 60 feet, but the height is unequal. It is narrow at the mouth, then gradually widens, rising in height to 12 feet or more; again it contracts, and at the end of 60 feet terminates. The door had been originally built with stones, and had a lintel, which is now fallen down, and buried under the rubbish. The cave itself is the work of nature. From its sequestered situation, and difficult access, amidst rocks and precipices, it appears to have been a hiding place in ancient times. It was not improbably some Druidical cave.—Adjoining to the burgh there is the vestige of an old fortification, called in ancient writings *Castlemains*, now *Castledykes* *. It is surrounded with a deep

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D

fossée,

* This castle belonged originally to the Lords of GALLOWAY, whilst Galloway continued a separate province from Scotland, and seems to have been built on purpose to protect the entrance into the harbour. JOHN BALLIOL having married

fossée, and is situated near the river. The tide probably flowed round it in former times, and filled the fossée with water.

The present *Castle of Kirkcudbright* is situated in a different part of the town from Castlemains. It stands higher up the river, and was built, anno 1582, by THOMAS M'CLELLAN of BOMBIE, ancestor to the present Lord Kirkcudbright*. It is a strong massy building, of the Gothic order. It is mostly entire, excepting the roof, which was stripped off and sold by the late Sir Thomas Maxwell of Orchardton, about 40 years ago†.

The

married DORNAGILLA, the eldest daughter, and one of the co-heiresses of ALLAN, the last Lord of Galloway, succeeded to a considerable share of the property of her father, and also to this castle. When the contest between the descendants of Balliol and Robert Bruce, for the crown of Scotland, terminated in favour of the latter, the property of Balliol in Galloway was forfeited, and bestowed by the King upon ARCHIBALD DOUGLAS, brother to JAMES, Lord of Douglas, for his eminent services in driving EDWARD BALLIOL out of the kingdom. This castle remained in the hands of the Douglasses, Lords of Galloway, till 1455, when their vast possessions in this country were forfeited, and annexed to the crown. JAMES IV. gave a grant of this castle, and some lands belonging to it, to the burgh of Kirkcudbright, by a charter, dated at *Edinburgh*, 26th February 1509. It appears by another charter, dated at *Kirkcudbright* 1508, that the King had been here in person; and the tradition is, that his Majesty had been hospitably entertained by the burgh, and that they claimed some reward for their former services to JAMES II. when he was besieging the castle of Trief, and for recent services to himself; wherefore his Majesty granted, with consent of Parliament, the Castle and Castlemains to the town. At this time it was not under the jurisdiction of the burgh; but since the King's grant, it has been alienated by the corporation, though the land still continues subject to a burgage tenure.

* He obtained a charter from James VI. comprehending "*Totum et integrum solum fundum, et locum super quibus locus et ecclesia fratrum de Kirkcudbright proprius construebantur, seu edificabantur, cum omnibus lapidibus super eisdem existentibus, una cum pomariis hortis et pendiculis.*" This charter is dated at *Edinburgh*, 6th December, 1569.

† Besides the Castle of Kirkcudbright, there was another much more ancient; within

The town of Kirkcudbright bears some marks of ancient fortifications. A deep ditch and a wall appear to have formerly surrounded it. Strong gates were also placed at the entrance into the town, to prevent the approach of an enemy. These gates were pulled down not many years ago, to make way for building new houses. Some remains of the ditch and wall are still to be seen *. It is probable, that the ditch was then filled with water by the flowing tide; but from the retreat of the sea along this coast, it does not at present reach it.

D 2

Religious

within this parish, which belonged to the family of M'Clellan, called *Raeberry Castle*. It hung over a very dreadful precipice above the Solway Frith, and was disjoined from the main land by a deep fossée, and a strong wall next the castle, with a draw-bridge of hard free-stone, of an immense size. The wall and draw-bridge were destroyed only about 40 years ago; the interior buildings perhaps more than 200 years before that period. At present nothing remains but the deep fossée. This castle was besieged and taken by WILLIAM, EARL of DOUGLAS, and Lord of Galloway, in 1452. SIR PATRICK M'CLELLAN of BOMBIE, the proprietor, having incurred the displeasure of this proud and lawless baron, partly from his connection with Lord HERRIS, (who had withdrawn his dependence upon the Earl, and was hanged), and partly from his attachment to his Sovereign, was seized in his own castle, carried to the castle of Trief, condemned, and disgracefully put to death. This family had another castle at Bombie, within this parish, from whence they took their title. It is now a heap of ruins.—In tracing the various remains of old castles, which formerly belonged to this powerful clan, together with their vast possessions in land, one cannot help reflecting on the great instability of human affairs, and the sad train of misfortunes, which sometimes attend particular families more than others. Of all the great estates that once belonged to this respectable family, there does not now remain one single foot of land to the heir male of the title, the present LORD KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

* In *Nicolson's and Burn's History of the Antiquities of Westmoreland and Cumberland*, and the ancient state of the borders, during the reign of King EDWARD VI. (1547), there is a manuscript account, by Sir THOMAS CARLETON of *Carleton-Hall*, "of a ferray in Scotland, conducted by himself, who commanded a party under the (then) LORD WHARTON, warden of the West Marches." Sir Thomas says, "he went through Tevidale with his party, and plundered the

Religious Houses.—In *Spottiswood's Account of Religious Houses in Scotland*, notice is taken of the Franciscans, or Gray Friars, having been established at Kirkcudbright in the 12th century. Brother John Carpenter, who is said to have been an excellent engineer, and dextrous in contriving all instruments of war, was one of the persons professed in this place. But there are no records here, that can throw any light on the history of this order, whilst they continued at Kirkcudbright. The ancient records of this country, especially what belonged to the church, were carried off at the Reformation, by the Popish clergy, and lodged either in the *Vatican* at ROME, or in the *Scotch College* at PARIS. The present church, however, seems to have been built on the same spot of ground, which was formerly occupied by the *Fratres minores*, or *Grey Friars**.

St.

the country; then attacked Dumfries, which submitted to become subjects of Edward. He sent also a summons to *Kirkobrie* (as he calls it), to come and make oath to the King's Majesty. Upon refusing, he marched with his party, and came to the town a little after sun-rising. "But they, who saw us coming, barred their gates, and kept their dikes; for the town is diked on both sides, with a gate to the water-ward, and a gate on the over end to the fell-ward." However, according to Sir Thomas's account, the town, though attacked, was not taken. Afterwards, indeed, they sent their commissioners to Dumfries, and engaged to serve the King's Majesty of England. This historical anecdote, shews that the town, at that time, was tolerably well fortified.

* From the ancient records of the burgh, there appears, by a contract, dated 24th March 1570, to have been given to the magistrates, "the place and kirk in the town of Kirkcudbright, quhilk sometime pertained to the *Friars minores* of Kirkcudbright; also ane kirk within the burgh, called *St. Andrew's Kirk*, with the kirk-yeard, Chappelanes, and yeard thereof; reserving to John McClelland, and John Mitchell, the chalmers and yeards, which they occupy at the date hereof, for their liferent."—After the restoration of episcopacy in Scotland, notice is taken of a great tumult having happened, in 1663, upon the admission of a curate into the parish of Kirkcudbright. The Lords of his Majesty's privy council appointed commissioners to go to Kirkcudbright, and examine into the matter, and convene before them all such as were concerned

in

St. Mary's Isle, now the beautiful seat of the Earl of Selkirk, was formerly a *priory*, and founded in the reign of DAVID I. by FERGUS, Lord of Galloway. It was called *Prioratus Sanctæ Mariæ de Trayll*, and held of the Abbey of Holyroodhouse. The prior was a lord of Parliament. There are no vestiges at present to shew that it was originally a priory. Two gates that led to it were many years ago demolished. The outer one, which was placed about half a mile distant from the priory, and about an equal distance from the town, still retains its ancient name, *the Great Cross*. The inner gate, which led immediately to a group of cells, the habitation of the monks, was called the *Little Cross*. All these cells and buildings were pulled down, and removed about a century ago, and the ground now applied by his Lordship to a much better use, in extending his beautiful pleasure ground, than serving the purposes of folly and superstition†. It is worthy of notice, that although the retreat

of

in exciting this tumult, and preventing the curate from entering the church. At the meeting of the commissioners at Kirkcudbright, John Lord Kirkcudbright, and many others, were arrested and sent prisoners to Edinburgh, for refusing to quell the tumult and admit the curate. Many women in the town, who had been most active in raising the mob, were condemned by the commissioners to stand at the market cross for several market days, with a paper on their face, intimating their crime, and then bound over to keep the peace. The magistrates were appointed to execute the sentence.

† A few years ago, when his Lordship was extending his garden upon the east side of the isle, the workmen, in digging and removing the shells, accidentally discovered the skeletons of 14 people, who had been buried under them. They were regularly placed alongst the side of each other, with their heads to the west, and their feet to the east. One of them seemed to be distinguished from the rest, by a row of thin stones placed around him. Probably he had been some chief among them. How they came to be interred in that particular spot, when there was a burying place adjoining, which belonged to the monks, can only be explained, by supposing them to have been buried there, long before the priory existed. Be that as it will, the present Earl, with great humanity, caused all the bones to be carefully collected, put into boxes, and again interred in the Galtway church-yard.

of the sea is observable along the whole coast, yet it is more particularly remarkable around St. Mary's Isle. The sea, in former times, had flowed, not only round the whole isle, but had also covered at least one half of all that is now green, at every flux of the tide. The former line of high water can be traced with great accuracy, by the large shell banks, that have been lately discovered all along the east side of the peninsula. The west side is high ground, defended by a border of rocks.

NUMBER

NUMBER II.

PARISH OF BORGUE.

(*Stewartry and Presbytery of Kirkcudbright—Synod of Galloway.*)

By the Rev. Mr. SAMUEL SMITH, Minister.

Erection and Names.

BORGUE, SENWICK and KIRKANDREWS, were united about the year 1670. Borgue, or *Borg*, the general name of the united parishes, is derived from the Gaelic word *burg*, which signifies *a little hill*, and is certainly very descriptive, either of the situation of the church, which is placed on a beautiful eminence, in the middle of the parish, or of the general appearance of this district of land, which is remarkably unequal in its surface. Senwick (originally *Sandwick*), is compounded of *sand* and *wick*, two Gaelic words, signifying a narrow neck of land. This is also very descriptive, both of the situation and soil. *Kirkandrews* evidently takes its name from the tutelary saint of Scotland, to whom it was dedicated.

Situation

Situation and Extent.—This parish is situated in the southern extremity of the stewartry of Kirkcudbright. It extends farther south than any land in Scotland, one point in the shire of Galloway excepted. Its greatest length is 10 miles, and its greatest breadth 7. The figure of it is very irregular, and the whole extent may be computed at 40 square miles.

Sea Coast and Fish.—There are upwards of 15 miles of sea coast, nearly half the circumference of the whole parish. On this coast are the following bays: *Ross Bay*, which affords a safe and commodious harbour for ships; *Bridgehouse* and *Kirkandrews* bays, where vessels of light burthen anchor occasionally, in fine weather; and *Knockbrix Bay*, which is a better haven than the two former, but much exposed to south and westerly winds. The other parts of the coast are all rocky: For the most part it is bold and elevated; and in some places the cliffs rise 200 or 300 feet perpendicular; and as this coast is very much exposed to the south and west winds, the sea often rolls in upon it with prodigious force, and forms a scene grand and awful beyond description. The spray formed by the dashing surge, is sometimes carried to the distance of two miles. It blasts the crops, and impairs vegetation on the coast; but enriches and fertilizes the fields which lie beyond it.—Samphire grows among the rocks in great abundance. Considerable quantities of other marine plants are gathered for making kelp. Cod, skate and flounder; lobsters, oysters, and other kinds of shell fish, are also found; but it has never been esteemed a good fishing coast. Perhaps no good fishers have ever made the experiment.

Surface, Soil, &c.—The surface of the ground, it has been observed, is remarkably unequal. Although there are no high hills, yet an acre of level ground is scarcely to be found in

in any part of the parish. The little hills, which rise every where, and in all the varieties of shape, are nothing but masses of rocks, covered with a thin stratum of earth. The soil is, for the most part, a fine loam, sometimes intermixed with sand or gravel, and either founded on a rock, or hard gravelly bottom. Hence it is extremely *kindly*, and, in wet seasons, very productive, either in crop or pasturage; but it is soon exhausted by tillage, and easily injured by drought. Any level ground, which was to be found among the numerous little hills, originally consisted of moss; which is now almost entirely consumed in digging for fuel or marl, and hath left nothing but morasses and pits of standing water.

Prospects.—The rising grounds, in many different places of this parish, afford very beautiful prospects. The writer of this article has reckoned 15 or 16 different views of the sea, presented through the openings among the little hills. A very extensive view is exhibited of the circumjacent country, the surface of which is finely diversified. On the one side stands Kirkcudbright, and the seat of the EARL of SELKIRK; on the other, Wigton, Garlieston, and Whitehorn, the seat of the EARL of GALLOWAY. Behind, are the mountains of Galloway, rising gradually above one another at proper distances: Before, Whitehaven, Workington, and other towns. The Isle of Man, St. Bee's Head, and the lofty mountains of England, stretching out to an extent of 60 or 70 miles, form the limits of the varied scene.—There are no rivers or lakes which deserve to be mentioned; and very little wood, except a few small plantations around gentlemen's seats.

Climate and Diseases.—The climate does not admit of that extent and variation, that takes place in the inland and mountainous parts of the country. The cold is never so intense

in winter, and perhaps the heats are not greater in summer, from the well known effects of sea breezes, to cool the air in the one season, and to warm it in the other. Owing perhaps to this cause, consumptions are less common than in other places of Scotland. Febrile diseases are more frequent than in the higher districts. Agues formerly prevailed very much. There has not, however, been one instance of this disorder for 9 or 10 years past *. Rheumatism seems now to be the most prevalent

* Similar observations have been made in other statistical histories, and various causes assigned. It is surely worth while to investigate the true cause of facts so remarkable. The following theory is submitted with diffidence to the public, if admissible in a publication which is intended chiefly for a record of facts.

Marsh Miasma is assigned as the remote cause of intermittent fevers; and when such diseases become less prevalent, it is very natural to suppose, that the draining of marshes or mosses must be the occasion of it. But in this district no mosses or marshes have been drained, of any consequence, for many years past; nor has any other remarkable alteration happened to affect the salubrity of the air, except what may be supposed to arise from the superior cultivation of the ground. When land is deepened and pulverised, in consequence of improvements, by lime, shells, and marl, it absorbs the rains more quickly and plentifully. Hence less moisture will arise in evaporation; less water also will run along the surface, and stagnate in the hollows, which are here to be found in almost every field. The water thus collected sooner acquires a noxious quality, than that which is in mosses, which are commonly fed by subterraneous springs and running rivulets. Increased vegetation will diminish evaporation; for water is absorbed in considerable quantities by the plants themselves; and in proportion to their luxuriance, they diminish the reflection of the sun's rays, and keep the air more cool and temperate during the heats of summer and autumn. Moreover, it has been proved by LAVOISIER and others, that water contains pure air and inflammable air: and also, that inflammable and bad airs are in a great measure the food of plants. Thus, by increasing vegetation, that inflammable air, which is hurtful to animals, is absorbed in greater quantities. Water also is decomposed by them; the noxious parts it contains are returned; and a vast quantity of vital air is produced. Hence we may conclude, that cultivation of the ground will in various ways contribute to remove the cause of agues,

prevalent disorder in this parish. It may in a good measure be ascribed to scarcity of fuel, and cold and damp houses. From greater attention to cleanliness, and a more plentiful use of vegetables and fresh animal food, scorbutic and cutaneous diseases are less prevalent than formerly. Inoculation for the small pox is generally and successfully employed.—The climate, it appears, is favourable to longevity. On the 1st of January last, 13 persons were alive upwards of 80. One of 89, a tinker by trade, bids fair for rivalling his brother MARSHALL, celebrated in the annals of Crossmichael. He can drink a glass from the sole of his foot; and in feats of strength and agility, would surpass most men of 60. His teeth were all double, and most of them yet remain fast in their sockets.

Population.—The number of inhabitants has increased above one tenth within these 40 years, as appears from the following

STATISTICAL TABLE:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of souls in 1793,	364	407	771
Ditto in 1755, as returned to Dr. Webster,	-	-	697
Increase,	-	-	74

E 2 Number

agues, and other febrile diseases; and be of great use, in producing that state of the air which is favourable for promoting general health. Greater length of time, and a greater number of instances, are doubtless necessary to prove, with full conviction, that such diseases become less prevalent as the lands are better cultivated. It is no uncommon thing for particular diseases to appear at certain periods, to rage for a while with great violence, and again to disappear for some time entirely, until some peculiar state of the air takes place, when they again appear, and run their course as formerly. These remarks, however, it is hoped may be useful, to excite farther inquiry into a matter, which is so peculiarly interesting.

Number of families, -	152	Number of mechanics, -	40
— persons under 10 years		— shopkeepers, -	3
— of age, 137		— keepers of ale houses, 2	
— residing heritors *, 5		Average of births †, -	23
— non-resident ditto, 12		Number of black cattle, -	2958
— farmers, who pay from		— sheep, -	1129
100l. to 200l. per annum, -	16	— horses, -	270
— do. from 200l. to 300l. 8		— ploughs, -	66
— do. from 50l. to 100l. 15		— carts, -	78
— do. under 50, -	14		

Cultivation.—The farms let at from 8s. to 1l. per acre. Both soil and climate are favourable to early seed-time and harvest. Seed-time usually begins about the 1st of March, and harvest about the 10th of August. Agriculture, though much improved of late years, is not yet perhaps in that improved state, which might be expected from the advantages of soil and climate, and from the easy and independent circumstances of the farmers. About one half of the land is arable; and seldom one fourth of the arable land is in crop. The manures chiefly employed are lime shells and marl. Marl is found on most farms of the parish. It was used first of any of the above manures, and answered extremely well for two rotations of crops. But it is observed, that it seldom does much good when employed a second time; nor do lime and shells answer well after it. Shells are found in great abundance in all the different bays, and esteemed the best of all these manures. One small vein of limestone has also been discovered, but so trifling as not to defray the expence of workmanship.

Produce.

* Two of these gentlemen reside only occasionally.

† N. B. No register of marriages or burials is kept. The average of births was the same 50 years ago. Previous to that period the population seems to have been greater.

Produce.—The principal crops are oats and barley. Twice as much of both is produced as to serve the inhabitants of the parish. The surplus is exported to England and the west of Scotland. Wheat, flax and hemp are also reared; but in small quantities. The soil is doubtless well adapted for turnips, pease, and other green crops; but they have never been cultivated to a great extent. The land is seldom laid out in sufficient heart. Compost and dunghills, the most valuable of all manures for a thin and kindly soil, are rarely used.

Disadvantages.—Three circumstances concur to check improvement in agriculture: Short leases of farms, want of straw yards, and scarcity of labourers. Where the proprietor gives only a lease for a few years, scarce any restrictions he can impose, or any encouragements he will give, are sufficient to induce the tenant to meliorate his farm. No manure is found to be of lasting advantage in this country, except dung; which cannot be collected in sufficient quantities, in any other way but by keeping the cattle in houses, or straw yards; which no tenant will erect at his own expence, without a very long lease. Of this proprietors begin to be sensible. Some time ago, the Earl of Selkirk, and lately Mr. Gairie of Dunroad, have erected straw yards and farm houses, on a very elegant and liberal plan. Others, it may be expected, will soon follow the example.—Owing to the great increase of manufactures in the neighbourhood, it is extremely difficult to find a sufficient number of labourers, for carrying on improvements in agriculture. The price of labour is nearly doubled within these last 15 years, and is now perhaps as high as in any place in Scotland; and as the price of grain is very little raised in that period, this must also prove a material obstacle to the improvement of lands.

Black

Black Cattle.—The natural verdure of the soil, the temperature of the climate, and the great abundance of shelter afforded from the inequalities of the surface, concur to render this one of the finest grazing countries in Scotland: And the farmers, as might be expected, have long been famous for their skill in the management of cattle. Trials have been made of different sorts of black cattle, from England, Ireland, and the Isle of Man; but none have been found to answer so well as the true Galloways. The farmers here are as attentive to the shapes of cattle, as a jockey is to the proportions of a horse. Even an eye or an ear is not to be overlooked. Some of their observations may appear whimsical; but in general, they are certainly well founded; for one of good proportions is always easily kept, soon fattened, and, as Mr. Ramsay has observed, “commonly tells well at the end of “the balance.” It is to be regretted, that few of the cattle here are kept to sufficient age, or fed out for slaughter. When this is done, no beef in the world exceeds it. They are commonly bought up for the English markets, at 2 and 3 years old. An ox or heifer, of 1 year old, sells from 3*l.* to 5*l.*; of 2, from 5*l.* to 7*l.*; and of 3, from 7*l.* to 10*l.*

Sheep and Horses.—There are six different kinds of sheep in this parish: the *Spanish* sheep, introduced by Lord DAER; the *Shetland*, introduced by Mr. THOMPSON; the *Cheviot* fine-woolled sheep brought from the shire of Galloway; the common *muir* or *black faced* sheep, the *mug*, and the *Bakewell* breeds. The 3 first kinds were only introduced last year. It is intended to try a pure breed of all the different kinds, and also to cross them various ways, which will most probably lead to useful discoveries for the improvement of wool. The *muir* sheep are only bought in annually, and fatted for the butcher. The *mug* and *Bakewell*, or an intermixture of
of

of both, constitutes the staple of the country. The average price of wool, of the sheep bred in the parish, is 16s. per stone, of 28 lb. avoirdupois. Muir sheep, brought down in harvest, answer very well without smearing, and the wool improves in quality. The wool of the Cheviot appears to be of the same quality with that of the natives. The Cheviot sheep are very well made. By crossing the breed of them with the Shetland, whose wool is remarkably fine, it is probable that both the quality of the wool and of the mutton will be improved.—The soil here is no less adapted for horses than for cattle. Not many are reared for sale; though, under proper management, they commonly pay extremely well, and are esteemed much more durable, for the purposes of agriculture, than either the English or Irish, which are sometimes introduced.

Commerce, Manufactures and Fuel.—The prices of vivres of all kinds are regulated by Kirkcudbright, which is our nearest market town, being only four miles distant. This district has long been deservedly celebrated for fine honey. It is clear as crystal, and of the richest flavour.—A small manufacture of cotton has lately been established at Kirkandrews, where a village is also begun, but does not seem to increase with rapidity. Until the duty on coal is taken off, it is not to be expected, that population will greatly increase, or manufactures of any kind be carried on with spirit. This partial and oppressive tax is highly prejudicial to agriculture, as well as to manufactures. The farmer must be employed during a considerable part of the summer months, in preparing and bringing home his peats; the materials of which are with great difficulty dug from deep pits, carried to a considerable distance, and must afterwards be mixed with water, kneaded, and formed into loaves, after the manner that the
baker

baker prepares his dough before it is put into the oven. The cottager * * * †

Church, School and Poor.—The Crown is patron. The stipends consist of 2 chalders of meal, 1 of bear, and 800l. Scotch of money, besides 40l. Scotch for communion elements, and 3 glebes, which lie detached, and measure 16 acres. The church and manse are very much out of repair; but the heritors, it is not doubted, will soon repair them handsomely. They have lately erected an exceeding good school-house. The school is well attended, and the emoluments may be averaged at 30l. a year. The poor are supplied from the collections in the church, which usually are between 25l. and 30l. annually, and from the interest of 140l. of stock. Twelve or fourteen (the number commonly on the list), are maintained. None of these beg from house to house; but beggars from other districts are very numerous.

Antiquities.—There are four or five moats in different parts of the parish; one of which, (*the Dun of Boreland*), is very remarkable. Its situation is conspicuous, and commands a very extensive prospect of the circumjacent country. Its form is exactly circular, and at the top about 40 yards diameter. The fossée with which it is surrounded, is 10 feet deep, and 7 or 8 in breadth at the bottom. At the distance of a bow
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† It is with no small pleasure, that the author of this account has just received intelligence, that the duty on coals is taken off. The advantages of this will soon be felt among all ranks; and it will scarcely admit of a doubt, that in a short time it will prove equally advantageous to the State. For, at a moderate calculation, the district of Galloway alone will, in ten years, contain 10,000 more inhabitants, who will pay thrice as much to Government, in other taxes, as is paid at present by the duty on coal.

shot from it, and on lower ground, there is another of the same kind, and nearly of the same circumference. This is also surrounded with a fossée, which had been filled with water, but is now become dry, from the draining of a moss adjoining to it*.

Former State of the Parish.—About the beginning of this century, the number of farms had been double, or nearly triple, what it is at present. Four or six horses were yoked to a plough, which is now drawn by two or three. The lands, notwithstanding, were miserably cultivated; the cattle poorly fed; farms every where overstocked; and beasts of all kinds grazed promiscuously. Hence, though the soil was grateful,

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and

* In this moss, pieces of spears, and an old silver coin (the inscription effaced), were lately found. It is natural to conjecture, from the above particulars, that they had been intended for military stations; for which, in the opinion of some gentlemen of the army, who lately visited them, they are very well adapted. The remains of a strong fortification are also visible in the farm of Corneas. It is situated on a stupendous rock, which juts into the sea. It is of a triangular form. On two sides the rock rises nearly 200 feet perpendicular. On the land side, it is fortified by two strong entrenchments, and a mound, the original height of which cannot now be ascertained, as it is almost entirely demolished. In other places of the shore, at the bottom of very remarkable cliffs, there are two or three curious caves. One of them evidently seems to have been artificial; it is uncertain for what purpose it had been intended. The most remarkable fact, of which any memory is preserved by tradition, is the robbery of the church of Senwick by French pirates. The church, at that time, contained a very considerable quantity of plate, which the Frenchmen plundered, and had safely escaped with their booty; but a storm arising immediately after they had put to sea, the ship was dashed upon a rock, at a little distance from the shore, opposite to the church, and every person on board perished. In memory of this event, the rock has ever since been styled the *Frenchman's Rock*.—There are two fine old ruins in the parish; one of them called the *tower of Balmangan*, the other *Planton Castle*. Tradition has preserved nothing certain concerning them.

and the rents trifling, yet the inhabitants appear to have enjoyed the comforts of life in a very inconsiderable degree.

Present State.—The rents of land at present are increased in the proportion of 4 or even 6 to 1. The quantity of stock is greatly diminished. Many of the farmers, notwithstanding, have attained to opulence; all of them are independent, and enjoy the comforts, and many of the pleasures of life, in no inconsiderable degree. The disadvantages, under which they labour, are comparatively few; and they enjoy advantages more than sufficient to make ample compensation. Besides the advantages of soil and climate already mentioned, we apprehend it may be added, that their farms, in general, are of a proper extent; that they are at a proper distance from market towns; that they need few articles of importation, and have a ready sale and easy conveyance for articles of exportation; and that there are no villages, or small manufacturing towns in the parish. The last of these, we are aware, is usually classed under the opposite head. The politician, doubtless, ought to consider the want of villages and manufactures as an evil, because it is unfriendly to population, and increase of national revenue; but the philosopher, with more enlarged and better sentiments, forbears to lament the loss, when he considers their pernicious influence on the morals, health and happiness of mankind. It cannot escape the notice of the attentive observer, that, in villages, the most worthless and wretched part of society is commonly to be found. Thither the dregs of the community, from all quarters, are poured in. Every incentive to vice is presented, and no proper police is established to give a check to the growing evil. Where villages are founded, manufactures ought indeed invariably to be established, as the best means to give encouragement to industry; which will operate as a more effectual check to the progress of vice, and contribute

contribute more to the felicity of the inhabitants, than the best code of municipal laws, or the most rigid exercise of that power which is vested in baron bailies. Pasturage and agriculture are, doubtless, of all employments, the most favourable to the health and morals of mankind. Perhaps it is of advantage where both are blended together. The leisure and opportunities of social intercourse, afforded by the one, lead to indolence and dissipation; the hard and unremitted labour of the other impairs the vigour of the mind, and contracts the feelings of the heart: but the evils arising from either, are, in a great measure, corrected by the intermixture of both.

Character.—These observations have been suggested, from taking a view of the occupations and character, of the inhabitants of this parish; who are, in general, rational in their sentiments; liberal in their opinions; cheerful in their tempers; active and intelligent in their profession; satisfied with their own condition, and sympathising with the distresses of others. The cottager lives long under the same master; the tenant seldom changes his landlord: the progenitors of the present race, centuries ago, inhabited the parish, and, in many instances, the very farms which their offspring now inhabit. They are all allied by consanguinity or marriage; a circumstance which prevents jealousies, envyings and contentions, and doubtless contributes to that obliging intercourse with one another, for which they are remarkable. Religious differences are unknown; and, though very moderate in their religious sentiments, they have, from time immemorial, been regular in attending public worship.—It is not, however, to be denied, that, from two causes, the morals of the inhabitants of this country have suffered material injury: 1st, From smuggling, which seldom fails to beget habits of intemperance: And,

2dly, From too great a number of alehouses, or rather dramshops, established in different places*.

* When the Isle of Man was an independent principality, the temptations to smuggling were so great, that all classes of people became adventurers. Since that period, and particularly since the duties on tea and spirits were lessened, smuggling hath gradually declined; and, of late years, through the great vigilance of the excise and custom-house officers, it hath been almost entirely suppressed. In consequence of a late wise regulation, obliging all who keep public houses, to take licences, a regulation which, in this country, is strictly enforced, all unnecessary public houses are in like manner suppressed; the happy effects of which cannot fail to be generally experienced.

NUMBER

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF RERRICK.

(Presbytery of Kirkcudbright—Stewartry and Synod of Galloway.)

By the Rev. Mr. JAMES THOMSON.

Extent and Surface.

THE parish of Rerrick is in length 10 miles, and in breadth about 6; the face of the country broken and uneven. On the north stands *Bencairn*, a pretty high mountain, with a few inferior ones round its base, all covered with heath; the rest consists of moss, meadow, plain fields, and swelling eminences; the whole is arable, excepting those parts on the north, and the different mosses, one of which contains about 300 acres, another 40, and another 30; besides several others, and two little lakes, that merit no particular description.

Sea Coast, Island, &c.—On the N. E. corner, the ground is flat for about 2 miles; where there is one of the prettiest little bays, that is to be met with perhaps in the kingdom.

dom. It strikes into the land at right angles, about 2 miles long and 1 broad: At low water an uninterrupted bed of smooth sand, with not a rock to be seen; and so dry and firm, that horse-races have been held on it. Small craft may load and unload in any part of it. On the W. side is scooped out by nature a capacious basin, where many vessels, of great burden, may lie in safety from every storm. At the head of the bay there is a marsh, of about half a mile, formerly, to all appearance, overflowed by the tide, but now under cultivation. Off, at one corner, stands a gentleman's seat, with modern improvements; on the other, an ancient irregular village. Along the edges, there is a little rising ground, skirted with natural wood; in the mouth of which, on a line with the coast, is placed, exactly in the middle, a beautiful green smooth island, called *Heston*. It stands high out of the water, and is pastured with sheep, and abounds with rabbits.

Prospects.—As the high road leads across the head of this bay, where the traveller has, on one hand, the wild heathy prospect in the neighbourhood of Bencairn, and on the other, this striking contrast, it exhibits a scene (especially while the morning sun looks into it, having the lustre of its beams increased by reflection from the water, at the same time that their glare is corrected, by the woods and green fields that environ it), so variegated, sweet, and soothing, that any person of taste and sensibility must find a degree of reluctance in parting with it. From this to the farthest point on the S. W., the ground in general is considerably elevated; producing what is commonly called a bold shore. Here the prospect rises from the simplicity of woods, creeks, and green fields, and swells into the majestic and sublime. If you take an inland view, you have an extent of about 50 miles, terminated by Cairnsmoor, the hills of Carsphairn and Queensberry. On

On turning round, you have lying before you the Frith, 10 leagues broad, extending, on the left hand, about 30 miles; and, on the right, until it is lost in the Irish Sea. On the English coast, you have the towns of *Alumby*, *Maryport*, *Workington*, *Herrington*, *Parton*, and *Whitehaven*, with the intervening fields and hedges: All of which, except the last, are distinctly seen by the naked eye. On the back of these appear the Cumberland mountains, towering one above another; but all overtopped by the lofty *Skidda*; which, however, seems to have a competitor in *Criffle*, on the opposite shore, in the neighbourhood of *Dumfries*. These mountains have the effect, as it were, of throwing the Frith into a shade, by which every object is more distinctly perceived, and the beauty of the whole greatly increased. From the point of *St. Bee's* to the *Isle of Man*, lying in the Irish sea, is an extent of 11 leagues; and from thence to the point of *Whitehorn*, of about 9; the whole track forming a curve of about 90 miles; which, from several parts of the parish, the eye can take in distinctly at once. But what completes the grandeur of the scene, is, the variety of vessels that appear scattered every where, often to the number of 40, 50, and 60. And as most of the stations from whence it is seen, stand high, and the view reaches to the mouth of *St. George's Channel*, and towards the north of *Ireland*, (consequently very extensive), the vessels, by a well known law in optics, seem elevated one above another, according to their distance, till the farthest appear as if dropping out of the clouds: So that, in a certain state of the atmosphere, it looks like an immense canvas hung down from heaven, with these vessels pictured upon it.

Fish.—The tide in the Frith runs from E. to W. with considerable rapidity. Reasoning from analogy, and calculating from appearances, it is generally concluded, that there are

great plenty and variety of fish on the coast, though hitherto there have been no spirited exertions to ascertain the truth of this. There have indeed been several feeble attempts made in the Bay of Heston, which have proved successful, and corroborated the common opinion. Along the whole shore, but particularly about Heston, there is plenty of shell fish of the common kinds.

Minerals.—In the lands of Lord M'CARTNEY, there is a rich iron mine, which was opened up and carried on for some time by an English company, but is now desisted from: Not, however, that it is by any means exhausted; but owing entirely to the expence and inconvenience of shipping it. The coast every where abounds with free-stone, which hath been much in request of late, for the ornamental parts of some of the most elegant houses, both in this and the neighbouring parishes; and last year it was carried by land, at the distance of 12 miles, to one of the most magnificent structures in the country. There are no less than three places on the shore, which have been laid open, and declared, by act of parliament, to be free ports, viz. *Balcarry*, formerly mentioned, on the E.; *Port Mary*, (so called from MARY Queen of Scots taking shipping after the battle of Langside), on the S.; and *Mullock Bay* on the S. W. The first of these is safe and commodious by nature; the other two might be made so, by a little assistance from art; that at Port Mary especially, by expending a few hundred pounds upon it, might be rendered inconceivably advantageous. And as all the gentlemen, whose properties lie contiguous to it, are very public spirited, it is to be hoped, that, in this improving age, they will soon take up the matter in a serious light.

Exports,

Exports and Imports, &c.—This is the more earnestly to be wished for, as a spirit of improvement, introduced here only about 25 years ago, is still advancing; and consequently the articles of export and import are daily multiplying and increasing. As a specimen, the annual importation of lime, for the purposes of building and manure, is about 10,000 bushels; besides considerable internal resources of marl, shells, and sea lime. And there are exported, at an average, 15,280 stones of meal; 116 tons of potatoes; 880 bushels of barley; 231 of bear, and 198 of wheat.

Cultivation and Improvements.—Whether it is owing to the soil, which in many places is cold and spongy, or to its elevation and exposure to the sea, even where it is dry, in a country entirely naked with respect to wood, or to the want of convenient and sufficient subdivisions, or to whatever other assignable cause, is not determined; but the farmers do not find their account in cultivating the last mentioned article, (wheat); so that very little attention, in general, has hitherto been paid to it. These inconveniences, however, with many other obstructions to the improvement of husbandry, are daily removing, by the united exertions of the gentlemen, in planting, repairing roads, inclosing ground, and binding down tenants to certain regulations. The yearly fund, denominated *road-money*, is about 40*l.*; which is often considerably augmented by handsome donations from some of the proprietors. And so prevalent is the laudable ambition of wiping off the reproach of our country, in respect of its wanting wood, that, within these few years, there have been planted, in the parish, upwards of 170,000 forest trees; besides several new orchards, to which the proprietors are paying the utmost attention, by collecting plants from the places most noted for nurseries.

Cattle.—But while the gentlemen and principal farmers are thus studying and promoting agriculture, a principal share of their attention, and that of the tenants in general, is still paid to black cattle, which here, as well as over all Galloway, continues to be the staple commodity of the country; and no part of the Stewartry perhaps is superior to several farms in this corner, both for rearing and fattening. The lands belonging to Mr. Ross M'KIE give daily proofs, that this is neither a partial nor a rash assertion.—The live stock of the whole parish is as follows, viz.

Oxen,	-	-	2150	Horses,	-	-	190
Cows,	-	-	382	Sheep,	-	-	2383
			2532				

The black cattle are the produce of our own country, with a small mixture of Highland and Irish breed. The horses are mostly Galloways; many of them are reared in the parish, especially of late years, since their value came to be rated so high. And the sheep, (excepting those in the hands of a few, of a superior kind), are the descendants of the old inhabitants of the moors and mountains, of a small size and with coarse wool; the best here selling at 15s., and the ordinary run at 11s. and 12s. per stone; there being no woollen manufacture as yet erected in this country, to induce the farmers to pay due attention to the breed.

Natural Curiosities.—On the march, in the northern corner of the parish, within the property of Mr. DOUGLAS of Orchardtown, there is a small stream, which comes gurgling down from the mountains, in which are found a certain kind of little stones, of a very striking figure and quality, quite transparent, with a faint colour of purple, and so hard, that they

they will cut glass like a diamond. They grow on the rocks that overhang the rivulet in large clusters, about the size of pin heads, where they continue to vegetate (as may be collected from the different stages of their progress, evidently there to be seen) till they are near an inch long and $\frac{3}{4}$ diameter; when dropping out of their sockets, they fall into the water, and mix with the gravel at the bottom of the rill. The end that sat in the socket, very much resembles that part of a tooth which sticks in the jaw; the other end of most of them is tapered; and (which is the great and inexplicable *phenomenon*), are cut into triangular, quadrangular, and various other figures, as neatly and distinctly, as if they had come through the hands of the best lapidary in the kingdom. How frequently these rocks bring to maturity, and cast off their *singular fruit*, whether in 50, 100, or 1000 years, cannot be so much as guessed at.

<i>Population and Longevity.</i> —The return to Dr. Webster,			
in 1755, was	-	-	1051
The present number of the inhabitants of the parish is	-	-	1050
	Decrease,	-	1

As there is at present no parish register, the average of births, burials, &c. cannot, with any precision, be ascertained. These particulars, however, may be calculated with an accuracy quite sufficient for any public or political purpose, from the ample *data* already afforded from places where registers are kept; taking into consideration this circumstance, that the people here, in general, enjoy good health, and many of them long life. As a proof of this, there died, within these last 5 years, no less than 9 persons, who had all arrived at the advanced period of between 80 and 90. And at this day there

are living 15 more, who have nearly attained the same age. One woman in particular is 87, and has the use of all her senses and faculties.

From certain appearances it might, at first view, be concluded, that this parish had decreased greatly in its population during the last 50 years, there being several large farms now occupied by one tenant only, which at that period was divided among many. One of these in particular, which pays about 500l. does not contain above 19 souls. And there are 5 other farms, in which tradition says there then lived about 50 families; whereas they do not at present contain above 20. But to these plausible arguments for depopulation, are opposed the following facts: In the 1st place, There never was any emigration from the parish during this half century, worthy to be termed such: 2^{dly}, That although in the farms alluded to, there is but one principal family, yet they are generally pretty large, through the number of servants that are necessary to manage them: 3^{dly}, That although the two villages have been but little, yet they have been somewhat enlarged: 4^{thly}, That there are now families residing in several other places of the parish, which formerly were wild, and without an inhabitant.

Church, &c.—It may be added, as no small presumption in favour of the increase of the population, that the parish church, which was enlarged in the year 1743, has for these several years been too small, and last year received a considerable addition. At the same time, the manse and office houses were rebuilt; in which the heritors have shewn their generosity, and politely expressed their respect for the order of the clergy; which example is so completely imitated by the tenants, and every other description of the inhabitants, that no member of the church of Scotland need be happier than the incumbent
of

of Rerrick. And this is no temporary effusion, extorted by distinguished merit, or a tribute paid only to popular talents ; but, like a natural principle, operates steadily from one generation to another ; founded, probably, on this very singular circumstance, that there have been, not only no violent settlements, but there hath never been so much as a vacancy in the parish, since the year 1691 ; the late and present incumbent having both been so happy as to be the unanimous choice of the people ; having been ordained assistants and successors to their respective predecessors. The stipend, exclusive of the glebe, and the allowance for communion elements, is 83l. 6s. 8d.

Poor.—The funds arising from the weekly collections, and a few donations from some of the humane and considerate proprietors, are quite sufficient for the support of our poor ; there being only 6 on the roll, that are regularly supplied, and 4 more occasionally relieved. And it now appears, that the aid of the session will be still less resorted to, through the ready method of earning subsistence in some department or other of the manufactures*. This is one of the many advantages flowing from this new source of industry. Amidst these, however, two evils are to be dreaded : The one is, least parents, either from needy circumstances, or from an avaricious disposition, should neglect the education of their children, and thereby sacrifice the necessary information of their minds, to the supply of their own tables. The other is, lest those who have the principal management of the business, and the power of hiring and discharging the hands, should not be men of a sincere

* Tradesmen, mechanics, and all sorts of labourers, are so scarce, and their wages are rising so rapidly, that a standard can hardly be fixed for the space of a single year.

cere regard to morals and propriety of conduct. If these things are not carefully attended to, they will evidently, in the long-run, essentially injure society.

Schools.—The only description of the inhabitants that are destitute of the necessary means of subsistence, are our schoolmasters, of whom we have two, one in each village, which are distant 4 English miles. The salary, it is true, is the *maximum* allowed by law, viz. 11l. 6s. 8d., of which 7l. go to the schoolmaster at the Abbey, (which is looked upon as being properly the parish school); and the remaining 4l. 6s. 8d. to the one at Aucheneairn. Nothing is more evident, considering the advanced price of every article, both of food and raiment, than that the above sum is inadequate for the purposes of a decent and comfortable subsistence; particularly when it is reflected on, that the population is such, that, when the children are divided between two schools, neither of them can be numerous; and more especially, when it is considered, that the quarter's wages are so low, that an opulent farmer can have his child waited upon, and taught English, 6 hours every day, for the sum of 4d. a month. This is so glaring an inconsistency, that, to the honour of some of our proprietors, to whom it has been shewn, they have declared their readiness to enter into an agreement, with the rest of the heritors, to supply the defect, by an annual voluntary contribution. At the period when the law was enacted with respect to schoolmasters, the provision then made for them, bore a suitable proportion to the other ranks and stations of the community; but now, in the present altered state of things, it is indisputably a radical defect in the police of the country. It is therefore most devoutly to be wished, that all persons of influence, who have a regard to the rising generation, and feel in their minds a veneration for piety and morals, would unite their endeavours

endeavours in remedying this evil, by giving a reasonable encouragement, to so useful and necessary a body of men.

Proprietors and Rent.—There are 22 heritors in the parish. The rental, as stated in the valuation roll of the county, is 5,960*l.* Scotch; and the present rental is nearly 5,000*l.* Sterling, which will be greatly increased when a few leases are expired; there being lands in it which, about 15 years ago, were rented at 30*l.*, and which now let for 260*l.* Sterling. Indeed it is not easy to say, to what sum the rental of the parish might be raised, if the proprietors would assist their tenants in fencing their farms sufficiently, throwing them into small convenient subdivisions, laying them out in good heart, and in building comfortable and commodious houses*.

Former and present State compared.—The people here, till of late, lived what may be considered a kind of *pastoral* life; with that attention to agriculture only which was absolutely necessary to mere subsistence. But now they have taken a different turn, and assumed the appearance of activity, taste, opulence, and gaiety. All our heritors, except 4, either reside constantly, or occasionally. Several of these are among the principal heritors; and, considering the public spirit and taste for improvements, which gentlemen of their station now almost every where cultivate, and the distinguishing figure which

* Of all the plans of improvement, none is more necessary, perhaps, than proper STRAW YARDS for procuring dung: But of the advantages of this, neither proprietors nor tenants, in general, seem to be sufficiently aware. During the winter, there are fed in the fields, with hay and straw, no less than 2150 black cattle; now, if the dung of these were carefully collected, might it not contribute greatly to increase our quantity of wheat, and enlarge our fields of green crops?

which men of their rank now make, it must necessarily produce a material difference in the face of things, in comparison of former days.

Manufactures and Villages.—What now gives a prospect of comfort, affluence, and importance to the lower class, is a spirit of cotton manufacture got in amongst us; which we hope will in time lead to the woollen. Here we have two small villages; one at the old *Abbey*, and another at the head of *Heston Bay*. At the former, a few spirited young men commenced business last summer. At the latter, a company of farmers, headed by a patriotic gentleman, are making preparations for beginning the next; having subscribed a capital of 1,200*l.* for that purpose. The machinery of the last mentioned place is to go with water. And it is now also in contemplation, to erect a similar house in the lands of Mr. Cairns of Dundranen. Close by each of these villages runs a burn, with water sufficient to drive pretty heavy machinery; and, as their fountain heads are several hundred feet higher than where they empty themselves into the sea, works of that kind might be erected amongst them, in succession, for miles. Besides these, we have other three not greatly inferior.

Disadvantage.—But with all these natural advantages, besides the exportation of such a surplus of grain, and our commodious situation with respect to harbours, there is one, and only one, insuperable barrier to the carrying on of manufactures here, to any considerable extent, viz. the want of fuel. For notwithstanding our large and numerous mosses, such are the circumstances (which it would be needless here to narrate), that peats, to the generality of the inhabitants, are nearly as high, and ten times less comfortable, than coals imported

imported from England, at the present exorbitant rate of 28s. and 30s. the ton.

Prospect of Relief.—It has, however, been long a prevailing opinion, that the lands, now belonging to Mr. JOHNSON HANNAH, contain a complete remedy against all those evils and inconveniencies. These lands lie upon the shore; and so promising are appearances, that veins, 3 inches thick, of excellent coal, are found among the rocks at low water. This public spirited gentleman, for the satisfaction of the public and himself, has this year begun to give it a fair trial, and has already got down 40 fathoms. The symptoms hitherto, are neither highly flattering, nor have they given the least reason to despair. The public anxiety for the event is not to be described. The eyes of the whole country hang upon him in eager expectation; and “*eris mihi magnus Apollo,*” is the sentiment that possesses every mind, in case he succeeds.

Probable Consequences.—The advantages accruing from it, to the community at large, would be very great, as peats, the principal fuel over all this country, seem to decrease in proportion to the progress of agriculture; many of the mosses and marshy places being thereby laid dry and fertilized; and the brush-wood, and other combustible materials cleared from the fields, for the purpose of tillage; the demand being greatly augmented by the increase of population; and, even when peats are to be had, their value, of late years, is rendered extremely precarious by the wetness of the seasons. The benefit coal would produce to manufactures, can only be estimated by those who know their importance. How inconceivably valuable might it render the rich iron mine in its vicinity, belonging to Lord M‘CARTNEY? And how beneficial might it prove in saving men’s lives and properties, by rendering it

practicable to support a light-house, erected on the island of Heston, or on some prominent part of the coast?

Manners and Character.—All ranks, both in their appearance and manner of living, make a very different figure from their immediate forefathers. The same reasons, that account for similar changes, that have taken place over all the country, will no doubt apply here; these alterations being nowise peculiar to the inhabitants of this parish. The people here, in general, are peaceable, humane, and hospitable; have a lively sense of decorum and character; and many of them give indubitable proofs, that their minds are deeply influenced with rational piety. As an evidence of their sobriety and temperance, there are not two men in the whole parish, who are so far enslaved by a habit of drinking, as not to provide for their families, notwithstanding the many temptations they are exposed to, from the variety and abundance of foreign spirits, illegally imported on the coast; and (what is perhaps the cause of a still more general debauchery), the cheapness of whisky. In respect, both of civil and ecclesiastical matters, the inhabitants may justly be said to be a people who “meddle not with them that are *given to change*.” The farmers here, as well as through the country at large, are a set of civilized, conversible, and well informed men, far superior to those in the same station in many other places of the kingdom. Their line of business, being chiefly in the cattle branch, by which they are often led out into the world, and frequently into the company of gentlemen, who, here, are all either speculative or practical dealers in cattle, gives an illumination to their minds, and a polish to their manners, which those, in a mere grain country, are absolute strangers to.

Antiquities.

Antiquities.—With regard to Druidical temples, and Saxon, Roman or Danish camps, so much has already been said, in the course of the Statistical Account, that any farther descriptions, conjectures, and bold assertions, must appear trite to most readers. Of the former there are 2, and of the latter 12; besides a heap of loose stones, collected apparently with great fatigue, on the very top of Bencairn, whose summit is 1,200 feet above the level of the sea.—In the bottom of a long and narrow valley, about a mile and a half from the sea, stands the old *Abbey of Dundranen**; a minute description of

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which

* It may here, however, be observed, that according to an extract from the *Chronicle of Melrofs*, and other authentic documents, it was founded by FERGUS, the first Lord of GALLOWAY, in the year 1142. The first possessors came from Reivell in Yorkshire, and were of the Cistercian order; so called from ROBERT, Abbot of Cîteaux, or Cisteaux, or Cistercium, in Burgundy; who, about the year 1088, made a second refinement on the principles of the Benedictines, the first having been made about the year 913. That the monks of this description were very numerous, we have this strong evidence, that they had no less than 14 convents in Scotland, four of which were in Galloway.

The first abbot of this monastery was one SYLVANUS, who died in the year 1189. In the year 1430, we find one HENRY granting a charter to HENRY CUTLAR of Orroland; which was confirmed by Pope PAUL III. in 1437. We find another of the name of THOMAS, an honour not only to his country, but to the age in which he lived. Whether it was he who wrote the *Chronicle of Melrofs*, is not asserted; but it is allowed on all hands that it was written by an abbot of Dundranen, at least the latter part of it. The last abbot of the place was EDWARD MAXWELL, son to JOHN Lord HARRIES, who here afforded an asylum to MARY Queen of Scots, in her flight from the battle of Langside, in the year 1568; and after whose death, King JAMES VI. annexed this place to his Royal Chapel at Stirling. The revenue of the abbey about this time, as to the money part of it, was 500l. Scotch; but, according to the mode of endowing religious houses in those days, this must have been the smallest part of it.

There is no vestige of any tomb deserving notice, though it is certain, that ALLAN, Lord of Galloway, surnamed the GREAT, Constable of Scotland (whose daughter

which is deemed totally unnecessary, after the attention lately paid to it, both by Mr. de CARDONELL, and the celebrated Captain GROSE.

daughter DORNAGILLA was married to JOHN BALIOL), was buried in this place in the year 1233. These are most of the scanty hints that are now to be gleaned from authentic records; a minute, connected, and satisfactory account, having hitherto baffled the researches of all our modern antiquarians. And no wonder, if what is storied be true; namely, that all the principal papers belonging to this house were carried over to France.

NUMBER

NUMBER IV.

PARISH OF URR.

(County of Kircudbright—Synod and Presbytery of Dumfries.)

By the Rev. Mr. JAMES MUIRHEAD of LOGAN, Minister
of URR.

Situation and Name.

THE parish of Urr is situated in lat. 54° ; and, from a comparison of the tides, appears to lie about 30' of longitude west from Leith. The antient orthography was VR, and the pronunciation was WUR, or WHUR, though it is now frequently pronounced, and sometimes spelt *Orr*. From this little can be inferred, unless the above manner of pronouncing the V or U should suggest, that the inhabitants of Galloway were of German rather than Celtic extraction. The considerable lake, out of which the river Urr issues, is called Loch Whur to this day. There are also some people in this country surnamed Macwhur: But even this leaves the derivation of the name of the parish uncertain.

Extent

Extent and Rent.—The length of Urr parish, from the march of Kirkpatrick-Durham, nearly from N. to S., is at least 13 Scotch miles. The breadth varies, and at its greatest extent somewhat exceeds 4 miles. The number of acres the parish contains, is nearly 12,000; and though this estimate is given partly from acquaintance with the actual surveys of some of the larger estates, and partly from computation, it will be found to differ but little from reality. The gross rent yielded by this tract of land is at present 4,446l.; nor is it extravagant, whilst the present peace and prosperity of the country remain undiminished. The valued rent of Urr, or the rule by which it pays the land-tax, is something more than 5,000l. Scotch; and, in the reign of Charles I., this was probably an adequate rent for the whole parish. It may here with truth be observed, that at present, through all Galloway, 100l. Scotch of valued rent, implies 100l. Sterling of real rent; and, in the generality of instances, a good deal more.

River and Fish.—From Loch Urr*, where the river so called arises, to the Isle of Heston (where the stream is lost in the Solway

* Here it may not be altogether improper to glance at a small controversy subsisting betwixt certain respectable antiquaries. It has been commonly asserted that Sir CHRISTOPHER SEATON, the faithful companion of WALLACE, was killed, or taken prisoner, at a place called LOCH ORE, in Fife. The existence of a chapel at Dumfries, erected for the very purpose of saying masses for his soul, led some people also to think, that though Sir Christopher was apprehended in Fife, yet he was put to death at Dumfries. Now the fact is, that at Loch Whur, or Loch Orr, in the stewartry of Galloway, and around the loch, the Seaton family had a castle and a very large domain. At this day the land-holders, in that neighbourhood, have most of the old investitures of their estates from the Seatons. Sir JOHN SEATON of Barnes seems to have sold the remains of the family property in Galloway, so late as the year 1596. That the gallant Sir Christopher Seaton lost his life upon the eve of Bruce's coming to Scotland,

Solway Frith), is a course of more than 20 miles. The water of Urr skirts the parish of that name, so as to divide it from those of Crossmichael and Buittle; but the source of the river is about 15 miles farther up in the country, than the spot where it becomes the limit of this parish, as already mentioned. Vessels of 60 tons find the Urr navigable up to Dalbeaty, at spring tides. At small expence, and with no considerable efforts of ingenuity, this navigation might be improved, both by bringing it farther inland, and by rendering it more commodious for imports and exports: But in this respect, as well as *some others*, patriotism and disinterestedness make but a *tardy* progress.—Besides pikes, trouts, and some other sorts of fresh water fish, this river affords salmon. In wet summers, the latter are had in considerable quantities; but in dry seasons, sea fish can get but little higher than the flow of the tide. The price of salmon here depends much upon the quantity taken, as little is sent out of the parish. Two pence per pound was the average this year; and at no time are fish sold higher with us, than the market rates of Dumfries, or of Kirkcudbright, from which towns, Haugh of Urr is equally distant.

Soil and Cultivation.—The soil of Urr is in general light, but, at an average, very kindly. The upper parts of the parish are moorish; but, in general, capable of tillage; and it is believed, the arable land in Urr may be, to that which cannot be plowed, as 12 to 1.—Agriculture is by no means come
to

Scotland, is universally admitted. Now the probability of Seaton's being in Fife, when the partisans of Bruce expected that prince at Dumfries; the probability that any man, so obnoxious to Edward I. as Sir Christopher Seaton, should attempt to conceal himself in *Fife*, rather than in Galloway, (which at that time was one of the wildest districts in Scotland), are matters that may be very safely left to common sense to determine.

to perfection, but hath greatly improved within these last 30 years, and rents have at least risen in proportion. When it is told the public, that there are few farms, within 3 miles of Urr church, that have not been let, within these 40 years, for one tenth part of the rent they now yield, the assertion may seem improbable; the fact, however, is incontestible; and very adequate causes may be assigned. By the persecution, through which the west of Scotland, in general, and Galloway in particular, suffered so much, during the reign of Charles II. the minds of the people seem not only to have been alienated from the labours of agriculture, but from every species of business, standing distinct from religion and politics. Even the revolution, in 1688, did not seem to afford absolute security against the return of their former sufferings. As this prospect filled the old with despair, it fired the young with resentment; and hence many of them enlisted in the armies of Britain and Holland, during the wars of King William and Queen Anne, to oppose the return of a family whose principles they dreaded. Slowly, indeed, does a nation recover of the wounds made by civil discord. It is not yet quite 100 years, since farms in this neighbourhood, that now pay a rent of above 200l. per annum, were offered at the church doors, to any tenant, who would pay the land-tax, minister's stipend, and other public burdens. Let us be cautious how such times are brought back. With a government that exempts us from such calamities, we should not wantonly quarrel*.

From the year 1688, to the year 1740, agriculture seems to have improved but very little; and the value of land to have just kept pace, with what degree of peace and prospect of

* Farmers ought to be particularly cautious in countenancing intestine disorders. In times of prosperity and peace, a man may be richer, and may live more comfortably, paying 200l. a year for a farm, than he would be, in times of civil war, if he had it for nothing.

of tranquillity the country enjoyed. In the year 1740, however, shell marl was discovered in Galloway; and the abundant crops, produced by the use of this manure, encouraged the landholders, to let out for tillage large tracts of land, which had been enclosed for the purpose of grazing black cattle. A spirit of industry began then to be diffused amongst the tenantry and labourers, which was, however, considerably cramped by the vicinity of the Isle of Man, with which the inhabitants of Galloway carried on a considerable smuggling trade. But that island having been made subject, about the year 1760, to the revenue regulations of Great Britain, it is inconceivable how much the agriculture of every parish, in the maritime parts of Galloway, was benefited: The importation of lime from England, by water carriage, soon became frequent; (this manure is now carried 15 miles up into the country from Dalbeaty Port); a corn trade sprung up with Greenock, and other towns on the west coast of Scotland, as well as with Whitehaven, Liverpool, and other ports most adjacent in England; and the prosperity and opulence of this parish, as well as the vicinity, have ever since continued to improve.

Produce and Black Cattle.—Oats, barley, a little wheat, and black cattle, form the far greater part of the produce of Urr. In the year 1782, it was computed, that the oats and barley, sold out of the parish, amounted to the value of 4,000*l*. Potatoes also form a considerable article of commerce, especially with the English ports. As to the number of black cattle disposed of yearly, it is impossible this can be fixed, with any precision, as many farmers keep what are called running stocks, *i. e.* buy in and sell out several times in the year. Probably, however, if every farmer was to breed his own sale cattle, the parish might produce 800 bullocks, of two and a half years old, which might annually be sent to England, or

otherwise disposed of. The very best Galloway bullock, at 30 months old, will weigh from 30 to 35 stones, and will sell at 7l. 7s., or at 8l.

Sheep.—The sheep kept in Urr are not numerous. By the best information, there are, just now, about 900 in the parish. Those kept in the moor farms are of the black faced kind. Their wool consequently is coarse. On the farms that have been well cultivated, the sheep are generally of the English breed, and the wool is fine and more abundant.

Here it may be proper to observe, that, in the reign of James VI., Galloway was understood to produce the finest wool in Scotland, perhaps in Britain. William Lithgow says, he had seen finer wool in Galloway than ever he saw in Spain. Even to this day, in some particular farms, the wool is remarkably fine, and of a brilliant whiteness. The sheep from which this wool is cut, are white faced, rather small, and in all respects seem very much to resemble the sheep of the Shetland Isles. Finding that the white faced sheep, with fine wool, had once been the common stock of every farm in Galloway, it became a question, *Whence the black faced sheep, whose wool is scarce worth cutting, were imported?* But no investigation or inquiry upon this subject, was attended with any satisfaction. It may be observed, that Galloway, in its uncultivated state, abounded with goats, which, in moorish and mossy tracts, are almost uniformly of a black colour. Now, that the goat and the sheep easily, nay commonly, breed together, is undeniable; and that the *mules* so produced are as fruitful as either the separate breed of goats, or of sheep, is a fact that cannot be disputed. In every farm, in the wilder parts of Galloway, at this day, where flocks of goats and sheep are kept, at no great distance from one another, every spring we see, among the sheep especially, several mongrels,

rels, which are just carried on with the flock of lambs to which they belong. Now the goat, in the wild and uncultivated parts of the country, is an animal of much larger bone, and far hardier than the sheep. About the time, therefore, that James VI. left Scotland, and when the manufactures, commerce and agriculture of that kingdom began to decline, it is highly probable, that the black faced breed of sheep, (that is, the mongrels above mentioned), might be encouraged, so as to stock the greater part of the farms calculated for sheep. Woollen manufactures having scarcely any existence in Scotland, and the English being hardly able to work their own wool, the only objects that could interest a Scotch farmer, as to sheep, were the ease with which they could be preserved, the flavour of their flesh, and the weight of their carcases. In all these respects, the mongrels, bred betwixt the sheep and the goat, are superior, especially to the small white faced sheep already mentioned, the wool of which was of such uncommon fineness. The mongrels are constantly black faced, and in their form differ little from the sheep thus distinguished. Two or three removes might indeed produce all the distinction that obtains. This mongrel breed, (half sheep and half goat), however much they might suit ancient times of barbarism, ought no longer to be preserved, at a period, when the proper management of sheep, and the great profits of sheep farming, when skilfully conducted, are so much better understood.

Reptiles, Birds and Plants.—The animals and plants found in this parish, have in them little of singularity. The small and deadly *coluber*, said to be found in Galloway, has very probably existence, though this reptile may be rare. This probability is admitted, not only from numerous traditions, but because the writer of this account has once or twice met with a copper-coloured worm, or little serpent, differing

greatly from both the viper and the common *blind worm*. The heads of these singular reptiles were so much bruised, in the killing of them, that it was impossible to dissect them*.—Several species of birds, not formerly known in this country, seem lately to have taken up their abode in it. Amongst these are the bullfinch, and gold-crested wren.—But though many exotic plants grow very well, upon being introduced here, it has not been learned, that the wind, the tide, or any fortuitous cause, has increased of late the list of indigenous vegetables.

Minerals.—The natural productions of Urr parish need hardly to be mentioned, differing little from those which are found generally throughout the stewartry of Galloway. Shell marl there is in abundance; but that which could be dug at the cheapest rate being exhausted, the ease of procuring lime from England renders the marl, which lies deep, of little value. Lime-stone too there is, but of so hard a nature, that it is not meddled with, the rather as coal cannot be had to burn it. For the same reason, the abundance of iron ore remains an useless gift of nature. The growth of wood, more especially of the Scotch fir, the oak, ash, elm, &c. (trees with which the face of this country was once covered), is exceedingly rapid†: And if the present unpopular tax on coals

* Were we to state, as natural curiosities, the great number of large bones, of various animals, now extinct even as to species; the immense heads of oxen, probably *uri*; and the horns of deer, larger than any now found in Europe, a great deal might be wrote, with not much gratification to curiosity. Suffice it to say, that almost every marl pit, or peat moss, in the parish, has at times produced bones, heads, &c. such as the above mentioned.

† One instance may be given of this, instead of many. In the year 1766, Mr. Copland of Collieston planted about 60 acres, of very waste land, near the village of Dalbeaty. For these 4 years now past, Scotch firs, to the value of

coals from Cumberland continues, proprietors will be forced to plant in every farm what will afford a resource as to fuel; at least this would be their interest.

Antiquities.—In this parish there are few of any importance. Several moats and fortified camps are to be met with, both in Urr, and in the adjoining part of Buittle. These moats appear, however, to be Danish or British works, rather than Roman. Tradition itself hath long been silent as to their origin. Earthen urns, filled with calcined bones, are frequently found in this neighbourhood. But the burning dead bodies was a custom common to the Romans with the northern nations. The *Moat of Urr* is perhaps the largest work of the kind in Scotland. It stands on the west bank of the river, about half a mile below Urr church. A survey and drawing of this moat would have been here given, had this consisted with the plan of the work for which this article is written. Though the ditches, and the construction of Urr Moat in general, are by no means Roman, yet, about 30 years ago, some outworks remained, seemingly erected by that people. These outworks adjoining to Urr Moat, and having some resemblance to the Roman mode of fortifying, were placed upon a rising ground, where the moat itself, (steep in other parts), is connected with the surrounding plain, upon a *levis ascensus*, such as those where Cæsar so often awaited or invited the attacks of the barbarians, obtaining decisive victory from an almost

150l. per annum, have been sold out of this plantation, for supporting the coal mines in Cumberland; not to speak of a prodigious number of trees destroyed by the accidental firing of the heath, in the year 1781, and a considerable number sold to the neighbourhood. For these 10 years to come, it is computed these Scotch firs may produce the above annual revenue; not to mention the deciduous wood, which is not yet fit for cutting.

most imperceptible advantage. These outworks have, within these 20 years, been obliterated by the plough*.

Population.

* More decisive proofs, however, lead us to believe, that the Romans have visited, and perhaps made some stay in this part of Scotland. At Mill of Buittle, about half a mile west from the moat already mentioned, there were found, several years ago, three small silver coins (*sesterces*) one of TIBERIUS, one of HADRIAN, and one of COMMODUS. The two last of these coins were given, by the present minister of Urr, to Mr. CARDONNEL, an ingenious antiquary of Edinburgh. In the estate of Mr. MAXWELL of Munthes, also about a mile and a half S. W. of the moat, there were found, not long ago, several legionary spears, made of a very hard kind of brass. They were nearly of the same model with those in the Advocates' Library of Edinburgh; but the labouring people who found them, mistaking the hard brass for a more precious metal, these ancient weapons were mostly broken; though I believe some of them yet remain entire at Munthes. Upon the whole, it seems probable, that the moat of Urr may have been in the possession of the Romans, though not an erection of theirs. If it was a British town or fort, which the Romans converted into one of their *stativa*, there would be in it sufficient space for accommodating a legion, with auxiliaries. More than half a mile to the E. of this spot, within the estate of Redcastle, there is a rude block of granite, standing upright, in a plain field: about 14 feet of the stone a pear above the soil, and very probably 5 or 6 feet are sunk in the earth; but what person, or what event this monument of antiquity was meant to commemorate, no mortal pretends to say, tradition itself being silent on the subject.

If any thing were to be added to the small number of antiquities belonging to this parish, we might mention the ruins of several Roman Catholic chapels, situated within the ancient domain of the honourable family of HERRIES; and the tomb-stones of those who perished by military execution, during the infatuated reign of Charles II. These stones have from time to time been kept in repair, by the friends of that cause in which the sufferers perished; and whilst there was a *Pretender* to the throne of Britain, each of the above sepulchral monuments was, to government, as good as a considerable military force in this part of the country.

<i>Population.</i> —The number of souls in Urr, at Whitsunday			
last, above 10 years of age, was	-	-	997
And under that period of life,	-	-	357
In all,	-	-	1354
The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was,	-	-	1193
Increase,	-	-	161

Though the present minister of Urr could never discover any roll, drawn up by his immediate predecessor, distinctly specifying the number of inhabitants in the parish, yet he is assured by the precentor, who did his duty also under the former incumbent, that about 25 years ago, the whole number of people in Urr, of all denominations, hardly amounted to 900. This account of matters appears perfectly credible. The villages in the parish have almost all arisen, within these last 12 years; and the inhabitants of these, and of sundry small farms, lately cut off from larger possessions, being subtracted from the population of the parish, as above stated, there is hardly a remainder of 900 *. It may here be asked, whence the increase of population above stated has arisen, especially in a district of country where no manufactures are established,

* Owing to the number of Dissenters, as well as to the considerable extent of the parish, it is impossible to be particular as to BIRTHS and DEATHS. In a tract of country, 14 miles long by 5 miles broad, or more in some places, it would be exceedingly inconvenient to bring to church, (especially in winter), infants of a few days old. Owing to this, the present minister has not baptised ten children in the church during his incumbency (22 years). And very few marriages have been solemnized in the church during that space. Thus it becomes impossible precisely to fix the annual number of baptisms and marriages: And to say the truth, these which are solemnized out of the church are but carelessly recorded. As to BURIALS, no record of them was ever kept.—The males are considerably more numerous than the females. The want of labourers, in a wide country, where the proprietors are mostly or all affluent, the influx of Irishmen, driven from home by tythes, &c. and the easiness of subsistence, render the acquisition of male citizens, such as they are, daily and abundant.

established, or at least none that can encourage population to any perceptible extent? In answer to this, it may be observed, that the convenience of fuel seems to be one great cause, why the number of inhabitants rapidly increases here, whilst population continues at a stand, or rather diminishes, in the parishes adjacent. In most parts of Galloway, and especially in the flat country, and on the sea coast, the moorlands are either entirely worn out, or dug so deep, that they stand covered with water; nor are the proprietors very attentive to the draining of such moorlands as are in this situation. Coals, indeed, might be had from England, at the rate of about 4d. per cwt., in the course of fair trade; but then a very ill judged *tax*, on *coals carried coastwise*, precludes this advantage, which equally points at the improvement of navigation, manufactures and agriculture. If we add to the duty on coals carried coastwise, as actually paid to government, the *insolence* of custom-house officers, and the vexatious manner in which they reduce their instructions to practice, it may be averred safely, that the cwt. of coals, that could be had for 4d. at farthest, stands the consumer above a *shilling*. Frequent and continued applications have been made to government for taking off this tax, equally pernicious and impolitic. One answer, however, has constantly been made to all complaints on this subject: *What tax will you put in place of the duty upon coals carried coastwise? or, How do you propose to remunerate government for the diminution of revenue thus occasioned?* One can hardly obviate such a childish difficulty, without being somewhat ruffled. There is not one sensible man in Galloway, who will or can deny, that if the tax on coals had been suppressed 10 years ago, the king would have had 10,000 subjects more in the maritime part of this country. Now the taxation on these, making the estimate at only 20s. a head, must have yielded government ten times the tax in question. How the interest of the *custom-house* might have stood, is another question.

tion: Every man (it has been observed), who *can* have a family, will have one; but a single difficulty may be as effectual as a hundred. If to what has been already observed, we add this unquestionable truth, that nine tenths of the diseases, which afflict the poorer part of the people, are those of debility, and chiefly arise from cold, it can hardly be wondered at, that the above tax has been productive of considerable discontent, and much emigration.

Villages.—About 12 or 13 years ago, the village of *Dalbeaty* was begun, by Alexander Copland of Kings Grange, and George Maxwell of Munshes, Esquires, on both sides of a rivulet, called *Dalbeaty Burn*. This village affords one of the best situations, for a cotton or woollen manufacture, that could even be wished for. The gentlemen already mentioned feued houses and gardens at a moderate rate; and to every feuer an allotment was made for perpetuity, in the large moor, not far from the village. The rapidity with which this village has increased, and the distance from which feuers have come, plainly demonstrate how much the tax, upon coals carried coastwise, prevents population in this, and doubtless in other parts of Scotland. In other places of Urr parish, villages are begun, but they advance slowly; for the chief resource they have, as to fuel, is the remainder of the peats that can be spared by Messrs. Maxwell and Copland, after accommodating their own feuers. This resource must fail as the village of *Dalbeaty* enlarges; and already many farmers, as well as feuers, in the parish, have their peats to lead from 3 to 5 miles distance. In one word, it is not chimerical to suppose, that, in 10 years, want of fuel might drive a great proportion of the people in this parish, to America, where indeed a great number of families, that emigrated from hence, are already settled.

Employments.—Though agriculture is the chief object of industry, yet there are a considerable number of people, who follow mechanical professions. There are about 20 weavers in the parish. Other tradesmen too, such as masons, joiners, smiths, shoemakers, &c. hold fully as great a proportion to the total population, already stated, as could well be expected. Enlistments in the army are very rare; not above 2 or 3 of the *natives* of Urr having disposed of themselves in the military line for these 20 years. At present, few characters much tainted with idleness or dissipation are to be found here; of absolute profligacy, there is not one known at present.

Provisions and Wages.—The prices of grain, beef, mutton, and provisions of all sorts, are estimated in Urr at the rate of the Dumfries market.—As the encouragement for labourers, in the line of agriculture, is considerable, manufactures have not as yet been much thought of. Though some parts of the parish are well peopled, others are not. Even to this day, there is hardly in it *one* human creature for *ten* acres of land. Much waste ground, therefore, is yet to be inclosed and cultivated. The wages of labourers are high, and they are well paid. Day labourers can earn from 1s. to 1s. 6d. *per diem*. Men servants have from 4l. 4s. to 4l. 10s. in the half year, and some 5l. Women servants have from 1l. 5s. to 1l. 15s., and even 2l. per half year. What is called a cottar, or farm servant has, by the year, as follows:

1. 60 bushels of corn, valued at 20d. per bushel,	-	L. 5	0	0	
2. A house and yard, at	- - - - -	-	1	0	0
3. A cow, kept summer and winter,	- - - - -	-	3	10	0
4. Three pecks of potatoes, set with the master's,	-	-	1	10	0
5. A sheep at Martinmas, or in lieu, a swine grazed,	-	-	0	10	0
6. Wages for the year, in money,	- - - - -	-	2	0	0
			L. 13	10	0

Some

Some people (but very few) are disposed to give less wages, and to put up with more indifferent servants, than the above rates of hire would procure; but such economy seldom proves advantageous. In a word, there are few counties in Scotland, where the labouring poor have less cause of complaint, than in the stewartry of Galloway; and it must be owned, that they are honest, happy and contented accordingly. Mechanics in general work by the piece; their gains, therefore, in a daily sense, cannot be precisely ascertained. Tailors, indeed, work mostly by the day: Their wages are 8d., with victuals.

Manufactures, &c.—Only one manufacture has been hitherto established in Urr. It is that of paper. The necessary machinery and repositories were erected at Dalbeaty, on the estate of Alexander Copland, Esq. some years ago. This work has prospered abundantly. Indeed it is conducted by the proprietor of the paper mill; a person so prudent, so intelligent, and sober, that it is believed, few concerns would go wrong with him. There is also a lint mill at Dalbeaty, which is well conducted, and has its full share of what business the country affords in that branch. This vicinity, however, and the west of Scotland in general, seem by no means so fit for the growth of flax, as the eastern districts are. The copious rains that fall in Galloway render it one of the best counties in Britain, for rearing and feeding cattle. Even when unexpected and severe droughts happen, (nor is this seldom the case), the abundance of excellent springs make considerable amends for the hardship. But as the heavy rains are a disadvantage in the rearing of flax, the droughts, in a light and dry soil, are the destruction of this commodity. In this parish, therefore, it is not probable the culture of it will increase, whilst grain pays the farmer at the present rate. The absurd custom of fixing a rate of wages, at which servants and other

K 2

labourers

labourers are obliged to work, is never thought of in this neighbourhood. People of better condition think of what they can afford to execute, and servants and labourers are left to their own judgment, as to what they will undertake. Thus in all things necessary, labour and reward meet one another on equitable terms.

Health and Longevity.—As the occupations, followed by the people, are not prejudicial to the health, sickness is not frequent, especially of late years; and since the houses of the tenantry and labourers were built of better materials, and rendered more convenient, warm and cleanly,—more particularly, since these dwellings were improved, the burials of infants have decreased in a surprising proportion. The diseases usually prevalent are those arising from cold, hard labour, and other debilitating causes; and such distempers are found to yield readily to strengthening medicines. There is one surgeon in the parish, who practises through several other parishes adjacent. Attornies we have none.—As not only the labours usually followed, but the air* and climate, are friendly to health, longevity is not uncommon. Within these 15 years, several persons have died at the age of 100, or above it. One Peter Buchanan died in the village of Dalbeaty, about 10 years ago. His age could not be exactly fixed; but this much is certain, that he was above 115 years old. He was surprisingly healthy and active to the day of his death, and died of about half an hour's sickness. There are just now two or three persons in Urr aged 90, and several above fourscore. Even at the age of 70, or above it, it is not unusual to see a labourer subsisting himself, and earning the usual day's wages: Nor is there a poor person in the parish, who

* Upon fair experiment, it will be found, that the thermometer stands higher in this part of Galloway (*communibus diebus*), than it does at London.

who does not make some exertions in the way of industry, excepting one or two, who are quite superannuated.

Church, School, and Poor.—The minister's stipend is 83l. 6s. 8d., with an allowance of 5l. for communion elements :—200 merks Scotch (or 11l. 2s. 2½d. Sterling) are allotted for supporting the parish school; but the large extent of the parish has occasioned even this small sum to be divided. —There never was any poor's rate in the parish. There are at present 8 or 9 individuals, who receive from the funds of the poor, about a guinea a year, upon an average; and what further aid is necessary is cheerfully afforded in the way of private donation. So attentive has this neighbourhood been to matters of this kind, that for these 20 years, there have not been 3 travelling beggars belonging to Urr; nor did even these go beyond the limits of the parish. At present, there is no poor person of the travelling description amongst us.

Religion.—Of the 1354 persons, who compose the population already stated, there are about 30 families of Antiburgher Seceders, and 28 families of Roman Catholics. The Seceders have had a meeting-house within the parish for these 45 years past, or more; during which time, the Rev. Mr. John Milligan, a gentleman equally venerable as a minister, and respectable as a citizen, has performed the pastoral duty. The Catholics attend divine service in a neighbouring parish, where they have a place of worship*. Their clergy have been
always

* At MUNSHES, in the parish of *Buittle*, in the reign of CHARLES I. GEORGE MAXWELL of MUNSHES, a gentleman of great worth and probity, was the judge ordinary of this county. Though himself a Roman Catholic, with a liberality little suited to the times, and hardly consistent with his own safety,

always persons of piety, erudition, and irreproachable lives. Justice requires it farther to be said, that the lives and deportment of the hearers do no discredit to the example and instructions of the teachers. The whole amount of the Dissenters in Urr is 270 persons. The difference of religious opinion has never occasioned much misunderstanding or bitterness. The established minister has been in use to visit (more especially in afflicted families), without distinction; and, on such occasions, to perform the usual acts of devotion without reserve, or fear of giving umbrage.

Character.—With equal truth and satisfaction it is asserted, in the face of the public, that the behaviour of the inhabitants of the parish of Urr hath been, for several generations past, (and still is) sober, inoffensive and dutiful. By saying this, it is not meant to detract from that independence of spirit, that freedom of opinion, and that acuteness of judgment, which distinguish the inhabitants of every free country, and which afford the best support to every respectable government upon earth. In a quarter where (till of late) religious controversies used to be agitated with great freedom and warmth, it

safety, he saved the lives of several of those persecuted people, whom the fury of the Episcopal clergy, and the time-servers of the court would have brought to the gallows. To do the inferior people of this country justice, the family of Munshes, has not, since the Revolution, been much disturbed in the exercise of their religion. Once or twice, it is true, the house of Munshes has been rummaged, for books containing the doctrines of ANTICHRIST, and the vestments and implements of idolatry. On these occasions, however, we cannot learn, that the damage of the family was greater than the loss of a Greek Testament, and of a book called "*The faithful Farrier*;" both of which were burnt on the Corbelly Hill, near Dumfries, the usual *Tophet* for such captures. The outlandish character, and a picture or two, in the Testament, left no doubt of its popery; as for the other book, its ingenious title was mis-read "*The faithful Friar*." There have been greater mistakes, both in religion and politics.

it is not to be supposed, that the minds of men should be deprived of that acuteness, which results from such disquisitions. Ignorance and stupidity, however, no more appear to be the parents of loyalty than they are of devotion. Though it has been announced in some newspapers, with an air of triumph, that seditious writings had never appeared in certain tracts of country, and it has by some persons been talked of as a *lucky* circumstance, that the people in several parts of the kingdom *could not read* works of a seditious tendency, something better (it is hoped), may be said for the inhabitants of this neighbourhood. There is not one (it is believed) of the late seditious publications, that has not found its way into Urr. These, with some of the answers (particularly a pamphlet called *the Patriot*), were read, weighed, and decided upon. The result is, that, according to every probability, there is not a man in the parish, who would not risk his life for the support of the King's authority, and the British constitution, as established at the Revolution in 1688.

Wants of the Parish.—The natural advantages belonging to Urr parish, and the sobriety and industry of its inhabitants, are its sole resources. Acquired aids it has but few. The military road which passes through Urr, (and that in a line so preposterous, that mere *Folly* could hardly have stumbled upon it), is the only benefit for which it stands indebted to public benevolence.

It has been observed with justice, that where the mere labourer is not encouraged, and enlightened by the man of letters, human industry, and ingenuity too, will be stationary. We may go farther, and affirm they will be retrograde. Ignorance as naturally propagates ignorance, and far more easily, than knowledge does knowledge. In an extent of country, so large as that comprehended in the parish of Urr,
more

more schools than one would be necessary. The salary of the present schoolmaster is 200 merks Scotch; and, from this pittance, 3l. Sterling is abstracted, for the hire of a person to keep a school in the moorish part of the parish. For such an encouragement, it is not to be expected that teachers of very respectable qualifications can be found. It is the cry of many affluent people, however, "The most indifferent schoolmaster can teach a young person to *read*, and to *subscribe his name*. This is education *sufficient*. Why should we make our tenants and cotters better men than their *fathers*?" To mention no other absurdity contained in this argument, several gentlemen, holding this language, seem little to be aware, how far they expose *their own families* to the recollection of the world. As to ignorance of *history*, it may well be excused, when people do not remember their own grandfathers. As to those also who think that ability descends by *entail*, or is secured by *feudal title*, it could be wished their opinions were more frequently justified by their conduct. The jealousy, which the more powerful and affluent part of society have shewn, for some time past, with respect to the extension of knowledge, might profitably be contrasted with the conduct of Scotland, for at least an age after the Reformation. If inattention to the wants of the public, in respect of religious, moral, and even useful instruction, much longer prevails; if contempt and harshness towards those most oppressed, and most deserving citizens, called parish school-masters, remains unabated, people, who have most to lose, have greatest reason to dread the consequences. *Nil veri, nil sancti, nulla deorum metus, nulla religio*, may soon be the character of any man, or any number of men; but, of this description, we read but of few, in the course of 3000 years, who have given cause for the doubt, *nescio mirabilior fuit adversis quam secundis rebus*.

It is true, a great part of religious and moral instruction, is supposed to devolve upon the clergy. But how can this happen, when a foundation is not laid for their labours? Frequently it is observed, that the clergy of the present day are nowise so popular as their predecessors. And this hath been made an argument, for the contempt and depression, under which they have laboured of late years. The fact, however, should be duly weighed. Of late years, the courts of law, and the landed interest, have entirely superseded the clergy, in the management of parish schools. Heritors will not so much as allow a minister, to vote in the choice of a schoolmaster. They will choose him from year to year; they will pull into fragments a salary of ten pounds; and the parish minister is neither able to dispute such proceedings in a law court, nor is it believed, that he would be well heard, if disposed to ask redress. The consequence is, that a parish school is now a momentary, or at least a temporary employment, for some necessitous person of ability; or a perpetual employment for some languid insignificant mortal, hardly deserving the shelter of a charity work-house. Let us contrast with this statement, the character of schoolmasters in Scotland, for a hundred years after the Reformation; let us remember, too, the character which the inhabitants of Scotland maintained, and the figure they made among foreign nations, during that, and even subsequent periods; let us advert to the laws of the state and of the church, respecting the provision made for schoolmasters, and the qualifications expected in them; let us recollect too the periods when these laws were framed, and the men who framed them. Things are now changed. If a clergyman catechises his parish on religion, he finds they cannot read the Bible: If he speaks of morality, they answer him with a stare. Learning and literature are out of the question. At this rate, in order to be popular, the parson finds

it indispensable to propagate a dangerous enthusiasm, or to declare himself retainer to a contemptible superstition.

In his most rational efforts also, to do good, the parish minister finds himself under one great, one insuperable difficulty. Whilst almost deprived of the aid, and of the influence of the schoolmaster, the clergyman finds the same pains, the same care, the same attendance expected, from every family, from every individual in the parish, that were usual a century ago. Nevertheless, the population of the parish is perhaps tripled, the stipend is the same, and the keeping an assistant is impossible. All this while, the Dissenters, of every denomination, are not idle. They are not only establishing, but multiplying schools of their own, and clergymen of their own: And, if public discontent and party spirit are permitted, nay provoked, to effectuate these labours, which might be expected from the candour, the justice, the benevolence of a nation, how can it be otherwise, than that matters should hasten to a revolution? It has often been observed, that a religious establishment can only be dispensed with in a republic, *if there*. Those in power, however, are no doubt best judges, how far the expence of the church is an object, when the present form of government is kept in view; in which expence, undoubtedly, the establishment of proper schools ought to be included*.

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* These observations are offered to the attention of all concerned, by a clergyman, who never was a SCHOOLMASTER *himself*; nor was there ever one chosen in his parish since he was incumbent.

NUMBER V.

PARISH OF PRESTON-KIRK.

*(County of Haddington—Presbytery of Dunbar—Synod of
Lothian and Tweeddale.*

By the Rev. Mr. DANIEL M'QUEEN, Minister.

Name, Situation and Extent.

THE parish of PRESTON-KIRK (formerly called *Preston-baugh*), lies nearly in the centre of the fertile county of East Lothian, extending about 4 miles from W. to E., on the line of the great road to England, by Berwick; and, at its greatest breadth, about 7 miles from N. to S. The parish church, which is pleasantly situated on a small eminence, close by the river Tyne, is equally distant from Haddington and Dunbar.

Surface, Soil, River and Fish.—The surface of the ground is agreeably varied; and, were it more generally clothed with planting, would afford as beautiful views as any part of the county. But the richness of the soil, and the superior profits derived from tillage, prevent this from being the case. The river Tyne, which takes its rise about 10 miles above Haddington, winds through the middle of the parish,

and empties itself into the sea, about 3 miles E. of the church, on a flat sandy beach. On each side of the river, the fields, in the western district of the parish, slope gradually towards its channel; but at the village of Linton, a little way above the church, the stream, after falling over some broken rocks, of considerable height, runs chiefly through a flat fertile haugh, till it reaches the sea. In this lower part of the river, considerable quantities of salmon are caught, and excellent trouts through the whole run; but it is thought the numbers of the former, would be much increased, were the rocks that interrupt the channel at Linton Bridge, blown, so as to afford a passage for them to get up more freely, and to spawn.

Hill.—The only considerable hill in the parish is *Traprane Law*, formerly called *Dun-pender* (two Gaelic words signifying *Steep Hill*), an appellation to which, from its appearance, especially on the south side, it is well entitled. Its height is about 700 feet above the level of the sea; and it forms one of the most conspicuous objects to mariners, after entering the mouth of the Frith of Forth. From the top of it may be seen part of 13 counties.

Population.—The population, as returned to Dr. Webster in 1755, was - - - - - 1318

The present number, (in 1793), of males

grown up, is - 397

_____ of females grown up*, 354

_____ of children under 10, 425

In all, - 1176 1176

Decrease, - - 142

Produce.

* There is one uncommon instance of longevity at present in the parish; a woman, residing at Beanston Mill, aged 107.

Produce.—The parish contains nearly 5000 acres. Of these, in the year 1792, there were,

	<i>Acres.</i>
In wheat, - - - - -	700
— barley, - - - - -	350
— oats, - - - - -	750
— pease and beans, - - - - -	400
— potatoes and turnips, - - - - -	180
— clover, - - - - -	280
— pasture grass, - - - - -	1860
— fallow, - - - - -	470
In all, - - - - -	4990

The valued rent, in chalders, is - - - 216

The real rent is computed at - - - L. 4700

State of Agriculture.—Agriculture is in general prosecuted in this parish, with as much diligence and success, as in any part of the island*.—Drilled crops of turnips and beans are cultivated to a very considerable extent. The turnips are eat off the ground, in the course of winter and spring, by sheep bought in for the purpose. The sheep are confined within a certain part of the field, by a moveable fence, which is shifted successively, until the whole crop is consumed. This practice has been found so profitable (particularly last year), as to clear at the rate of 7l. on the score of sheep. The ground, thus managed, being clean, and in excellent condition, is very commonly sown with wheat in spring. The general taste for agriculture

* It is a fact, worthy of recording, to the honour of this parish, that it set the first example of fallowing ground, in this part of the island, now so generally adopted. In the beginning of this century, John Walker, tenant in Beanston, by the advice of some gentlemen from England, fallowed about 6 acres of land; and finding the experiment answer his expectation, he was led to extend it, the year following, to upwards of 20 acres. His neighbours, observing the success of the practice, gradually followed him in it, until at length it became universally prevalent.

culture which prevails in this parish, and the abundant employment which it affords to persons of all ages, are circumstances unfavourable to the establishment, or extensive progress, of any branch of manufacture.

Antiquities—A place of religious worship, it would appear, has subsisted on the same spot where the church now stands, as far back as a thousand years. It is mentioned, in the Saxon Annals, under the name of *Ecclesia Sancti Baldridi*, the tutelar saint of the place: And that record bears, that the Saxons, having made an irruption into East Lothian, in the eight century, burnt *Ecclesiam Sancti Baldridi, et adjacentem vicum de Tynningham*, a small village, about a mile eastward of this place. It is a fact somewhat curious, that upon taking down the old church, 23 years ago, the oak beams bore on them, in several places, evident marks of fire; so that it is probable, they had belonged to the ancient fabric, and consequently must have stood there nearly 1000 years. Some places, adjoining to the church, still bear the the name of the ancient tutelar saint; as *Baldrid's Well*, and *Baldrid's Whill*, a pool or eddy in the river. The chancel, at the east end of the old church, still remains, and is the burial place of the family of Smeaton. Under the head of the antiquities of the parish, may also be mentioned *Hailes Castle*, which bears the marks of having been once a large building, and a place of strength. It stands close upon the banks of the Tyne, about two miles above Linton, and was in former times the seat of the Earl of BOTHWELL, so well known in history, for his daring and flagitious enterprise in carrying off the unfortunate MARY. It now belongs to Miss Dalrymple, patroness of the parish, eldest daughter of the lately deceased Sir DAVID DALRYMPLE of HAILES—a venerable name—which will convey to this, and to succeeding ages, the rare memorial of talents which
would

would have beamed through indolence itself; of industry, which might have overtaken even the career of genius; both consecrated, by the energy of the purest principles, to the glory of his Maker, and the good of his fellow creatures.

Civil State.—There are 6 considerable heritors in this parish; 1 of whom only, (Mr. Buchan Hepburn of Smeaton), resides*. This non-residence of the proprietors, is an unfavourable circumstance to the poor's funds, in respect to the collections at the church; 20l. annually of assessment being necessary to supply the deficiency.

Ecclesiastical State.—The present church was built in the year 1770. The manse is old, and in bad repair. The stipend, according to an augmentation lately granted, consists of 8 chalders 3 bolls of victual, and 46l. 15s. 5d. of money, with a glebe of 7 acres.

Manners of the People.—The uniform, unremitting, but healthy labours of agriculture, which occupy the great majority of the inhabitants of this parish, are probably favourable both to their morals and happiness. They are, in general, industrious and contented with their lot. Possessing, as they do, the blessings of liberty, protection, and equal laws, with the means of providing, for themselves and families, the necessities, and, to a certain degree, even the comforts of life, *he* would not be their friend, who would seek to agitate their minds with speculative sources of discontent.

The

* SMEATON HOUSE, the residence of this gentleman, has been lately rebuilt, on an elegant and extensive plan; and, by its commanding situation, forms a great ornament of this part of the country.

The advocates for *political reform*, consider themselves; no doubt, to be engaged in a good cause. But without calling their *motives* in question, it may be allowed to those, who have a deep interest in the quiet of their country and neighbourhood, to deprecate the *effects* which their zeal in it may produce. Such an interest every clergyman has, both as a citizen, and as a pastor. Amidst the keenness of political associations, among men little qualified, either to discern with precision, or to prosecute by proper measures, the object at which they aim, there is danger that the voice of religion may be disregarded, that the respect to existing laws may decay, that the amity of neighbours may be interrupted, and that the quiet docile character of the people may be *ill* exchanged, for a spirit of discontent, jealousy, and pertinacious wrangling.

NUMBER

N U M B E R VI.

PARISH OF ECCLESGREIG, *alias* ST. CYRUS.

(County of Kincardine—Presbytery of Fordoun—Synod of Angus and Mearns.)

By the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM WALKER.

Origin of the Names.

ECCLESGREIG is evidently a name of Latin origin, and an abbreviation of *Ecclesia Gregorii*, the church of Gregory. It perhaps obtained this name from *St. Gregory the Great*, bishop of Rome, or from some later pope of that name, to whom it might have been dedicated; or more probably from *St. Gregory*, one of the first missionaries from Rome to this country. There is little probability that the other name, *St. CYRUS*, was derived from *Cyrus*, the Monothelite, bishop, first of Phasis, and afterwards of Alexandria, unless the new converts here favoured his doctrine. It is more probable that there was a *St. Cyrus* resident here, either a missionary, or a native; because there is a spring of salubrious water in the parish, called *St. Cyrus's Well*, and a small portion of adjacent ground, called *St. Cyrus's Ward*. From him it derives its modern and familiar name; but in formal

writings, in civil and ecclesiastical records, Ecclesgreig is the name generally used.

Situation and Extent.—The parish of Ecclesgreig or St. Cyrus is situated in the southern extremity of the county of Kincardine. It lies in $56^{\circ} 45'$ N. lat., and $2^{\circ} 10'$ W. long. from London. The high road, from Montrose to Aberdeen, runs through the parish, from the 3d to a little beyond the 8th mile stone from Montrose. It is 5 miles long from E. to W., and 3 miles broad from N. to S.; and, being nearly of a rectangular form, its whole surface may be reckoned to contain 15 square miles.

Surface, &c.—The surface of this parish cannot be said to be uneven upon the whole, although it admits of some gentle declivities, and gradual risings, is intersected by a few dens and rivulets, and rises into several eminences and little hills. It is curious to remark with what interrupted elevation the land rises, from the bay of St. Cyrus to the Grampian Hills. It rises high, bold, and rocky, with a sudden elevation above the coast. It then subsides a little, or continues nearly on the level for a quarter of a mile towards the north. It afterwards rises gradually, into several little hills or eminences, a mile farther north. It lowers again on the northern confines of the parish; and rises still higher in the more extended chain of the hills of Garvock. It sinks almost as low as the level of the sea in the *bow*, or hollow lands of the Mearns; and rises in sublime heighth, and extended grandeur, in the Grampian Mountains. More than three fourths of the whole surface are arable. The hills of Bridgeton and Woodston are planted. The eminences of Bidderee and Craigie are already arable; and the hill of Morphy is mostly capable of being made so. The muirs of Canterland, Murihead and Craigie, on the
N. W.

N. W. boundaries of the parish, being less exposed to the sea than other uncultivated places, might be planted, with profit to the proprietor and advantage to the public. For wood is a scarce article on this coast, and does not thrive when much exposed to the sea breezes. The general inclination of the ground is towards the S. and S. E. Some farms indeed are exposed to the S. W. sun, and decline to the river North Esk. The whole lies well under the benign influence of the sun; yet the crops come not soon to maturity. The time of reaping seldom begins before the middle of September; and harvest-work is often not finished by the end of October. This may be accounted for, from the wetness and stiffness of the soil, and the coldness of the climate.

Soil.—The soil of the parish, in general, is deep clay. In some places, the clay is mixed with a little sand; and in others, through long cultivation, and frequent application of manures, a black loamy earth, from 15 to 18 inches deep, is superinduced above the stiff clay. The soil soon becomes wet after rain, and unfit for tillage; but it also soon becomes dry again, and fit for any improvement. Its wetness is not so much owing to natural springs of water, as to the rain water; which being prevented from sinking to any considerable depth, by the resistance of strong stiff clay, floats at or near the surface, till it is exhaled by the sun, or dried up by the wind. This accounts at once for the opposite impressions so soon made upon it by rain, or fair weather. The general depth of the rain water, which annually falls on this part of the coast, has been computed to be from 24 to 28 inches. This computation is thought to be nearly accurate; but the rain that fell last year, (1792) far exceeds it. Such an immense quantity of rain, in one year, is not in the remembrance of the oldest man in the parish.

Climate.—The climate is sharp and cold for the greatest part of the year. But this may be accounted for, from its sudden elevation above the sea, its exposure to the eastern blast, its general want of planting, and its vicinity to the cold, snow-covered hills of the north. It is however a healthy climate, as appears from the common longevity and healthiness of the inhabitants, and from their general exemption from agues, and other chronic diseases. The sharpest winds are from the E., the coldest from the N. E. and N., and the warmest breezes, as well as the finest weather, from the W. The south wind is, for the most part, either accompanied with or followed by rain.

River and Bridge.—The North Esk, which separates this parish from Montrose and Logie, is sometimes considerably swelled by rain and melting snow. The common passage through it to Montrose, about 20 years ago, was by a ferry boat and a dangerous ford, till a bridge was built over it, by subscription, for 6500l. Of that sum his Majesty was pleased to give 700l., to encourage an undertaking so useful.

Salmon Fishing.—In the space of about 2 miles from the mouth of this river, the proprietors of the salmon fishing, in this parish, draw a free rent of upwards of 800l. yearly*. Between 40 and 50 men, including overseers, bring in all this profit to the proprietors, besides what they make for their employers, and their own wages and maintenance. This too happens

* Kinnabar, being in the parish of Montrose, is not included in this estimate, though the rent, drawn from the salmon fishing upon it, may amount to 200l. a year. The author of this article is not so well acquainted with the state and profits of the salmon fishing farther up the river; but supposes it will not exceed 50l. yearly, as far as the parish extends, in conjunction with that of Logie.

happens between the terms of Candlemas and Michaelmas, which are fixed for the commencement and ending of our salmon fishing. Seldom are the same number of hands so profitably employed ! Perhaps it might be more for the benefit of the fishing, both to begin and leave it off a month sooner. Continuing to fish to the end of September, comes too near the spawning season ; and if so, must strike at the source of the increase of the fish ; but to begin *sooner* than February, when the weather would permit, could do no injury. Fourteen boats are employed in the salmon fishing during the summer months, but seldom half that number are needed in the spring and autumn. The *skippers*, or men who have the charge of the boats, and give directions when to draw the net, have for their wages, during the fishing season, 6l., with 4 bolls of oatmeal, and 7s. for *sap-money*, or drink to their meals. When they have only 5l., with the same allowance for victuals, they receive the douceur of one halfpenny for each salmon they take. This gives them an interest in the success of the fishing, which makes them exert themselves, and must be an advantage to their employers. They are also with propriety called *sight-men* ; because, from habit and attention, they become wonderfully quick-sighted in discerning the motion and approach of one or more salmon, under the water, even when ruffled by the wind, and deepened by the flowing tide. The *ropemen*, their assistants, who draw the net, have 3s. 9d. per week, with two pecks of meal for wages and maintenance. Of late, very few of the salmon caught in this river have been sold for exportation. Indeed there has been no occasion ; for the fish being preserved fresh in ice, or boiled in a proper preparation of vinegar and salt, and sent by sea to London, meet with a ready market.

Besides

Besides salmon and grilse, sea-trouts, finnacks, feds, and herrings are sometimes taken in the mouth of the river by the salmon fishers; but it cannot be their principal object to take them; and indeed the quantities taken are inconsiderable. The seals are the greatest enemies of our salmon fishing. They watch the mouth of the river, pursue the salmon as they go up with the flowing tide, and devour many of them. Nay, when the fishermen are hauling their nets ashore, they sometimes get in below the net, and sometimes leap over it, seize their prey, and instantly make off with it; not without injuring the net, if it obstructs their passage. In summer 1791, the fishermen, in order to destroy these enemies and rivals, fabricated a strong net, of sufficient length to reach across the river at high water, and deep enough to descend from the top to the bottom of it, where it was firmly fastened with huge stones, and other heavy materials. When they saw that the seal had got up the river, above the net, which was lowered for the purpose, they went into their boats, with pikes and firelocks, raised the net above the surface of the water, and took their stations below it, to prevent the seal from leaping over into the sea. Several gentlemen, farmers, and others watched his motions from the shore, and fired at him as often as he ventured his head above the water. As it fell into its natural channel, by the ebbing of the tide, the seal was oftner seen, and of course oftner fired at. At length, he was sure to receive a mortal wound, and tinged the river with his blood. The incumbent saw three of them killed in this manner. The effect has been beneficial to the fishing; for more than twice the quantity of salmon were taken the ensuing season.

Dens and Rivulets.—It is only near the sea, on a high coast, that *dens* exist. They are very distinct from *glens*, which are valleys between hills. These you can easily survey, in all
 5 their

their grandeur, from the summit of the hill, on either side. But you cannot judge, from the appearance of the adjacent grounds, which are highly cultivated, and rise not above the level of the surrounding fields, that there are any such objects as dens, till you come close upon them; and the illusion heightens greatly the pleasure of the spectator. Dens sink suddenly from the common level of the country, and seem to owe their origin to some small rivulet or stream; which, issuing from springs on the higher lands, and meeting with soft materials in its way, has washed all these away, in the course of ages, till it found the hard bottom, and met with such resistance, as occasioned its sudden, and almost perpendicular fall in some places, which has formed two fine cascades in this parish.—The dens here are 5 in number: *Den Fenel*, the *Den of Laurieston*, the *Burn* or *Den of Woodston*, the *Den of Morphy*, and *Den Side*. The 3 first run in a direction from N. to S., and the 2 last from E. to W. The rivulets which have formed the former, run into the German sea; those which have formed the latter run into the North Esk. *Den Fenel* is an abbreviation of *Fenella's Den**.

Cascades.—Over this den, at the distance of 7 miles from Montrose, there is a bridge of one arch, resting on a rock on each side, along which goes the great post road, from Montrose to Aberdeen. A little below the bridge, where the den grows more narrow, the cliffs are very steep and rugged, and
boldly

* This FENELLA was the daughter of the EARL of ANGUS, a powerful nobleman in those days. There is a tradition in the parish, and it agrees to the account given by JOHANNES MAJOR, who wrote the *Antiquities of the Mearns*, that, after the cruel and base murder of KENNETH III., to which Fenella was instigated by the loss of her son, she fled from her castle of Kincardine, to this den; but, being pursued and overtaken in it, suffered the punishment due to her treachery.

boldly project, so as to form a very picturesque and interesting view, which cannot fail to delight the eye of the traveller, and fix him a while on the spot. About 500 yards below the bridge, there is a fine *cascade*, which is not perceived till you come close upon it. This body of water falls from a height of about 63 feet perpendicular; and when the rivulet is swelled into a river, or increased by rain beyond its usual channel, the beholder is struck with astonishment at the grandeur of the of the scene. The water, before it precipitates, holds its course 45 feet below the surface of the adjoining fields. The burn of Woodston, which forms also a small den near its mouth, falls in a broken hypothenuzal line, of about 75 feet, into the German ocean. Though this fall, deserves a place among the natural beauties of the parish, and is one of the finest objects that meets the eye of the traveller east from Montrose, yet that of Den Fenel far surpasses it in awful grandeur, and striking sublimity. The rivulets, in some of these dens, have contributed as much to profit as to pleasure, by supplying water to some of the corn mills of the parish. The dens themselves afford, in general, excellent and well sheltered pasture.

Roads, &c.—Yet, after all the pleasure and the profits arising from these dens, they have their inconveniences: They render the formation of high roads a work of great difficulty and expence. So late even as 35 years ago, to travel from Montrose to Bervie, (which is only 13 miles), in a carriage, was a dangerous journey. There was a rough, and often an unsafe ford, to pass through the North Esk; then a steep water-worn path to climb up to the common level of St. Cyrus parish; and then 3 dens to pass, without bridges, by narrow and winding paths down their steep sides, without one foot of made road all the way. Now, indeed, these inconveniences are

are in a great measure remedied, by the bridges thrown over the North Esk and Den Fenel, the Burn of Woodston, and the Den of Laurieston ; and it is with pleasure that the author of this narrative is informed, that government have lately granted 100*l.* to heighten the Bridge of Laurieston, which is now the most difficult pass in this parish. Yet, after all, the gentlemen of the county have it in their contemplation, to alter the line of road greatly for the better ; and to introduce turn-pikes, which are evidently for the public good, as well as for that of the county, when the expence of forming and keeping them up answers.

Minerals.—Upon the farm of East Mathers, there is a very valuable lime-stone quarry. This farm is rented from the Viscount of Arbutnot, by George Carnegie, Esq. of Pittarrow, who took it for the purpose of working the quarry, to a greater extent and more advantage, than could have been done by a common farmer. Only an inconsiderable quantity, mostly for building and plastering, for which purposes it is preferred to any other in the country, was sold by the former tenant. Indeed, he had neither money nor genius to carry on the work to any great extent ; nor were the benefits of using lime, as an agricultural manure, so well known, as to occasion a great demand for it. The lime rock begins on the shore about flood mark, and the post is now from 12 to 14 feet deep. When first discovered and worked, it lay very near the surface ; but it dips in so great a declivity, in a S.W. direction, that there is now 25 feet of earth, and brittle red rock, above it. And as there is no level to carry off the water, it is drawn off by a pump, worked by two horses, at great expence.

The coals, for burning the lime-stone, are brought from the Frith of Forth, and landed in a small creek near the works,

which Mr. Carnegie has enlarged into a tolerable harbour for small vessels. They are subject to the tax on *water-born coal*, so much felt and complained of over a great part of Scotland, but from which, we observe with pleasure, there is now a near prospect of being relieved; seeing his Majesty's ministers have recommended it to the consideration of the legislature, and are themselves the promoters of its repeal. Culm is mostly used by Mr. Carnegie for the burning of his lime; but the stone is so hard, and the demand at one season of the year so great, that it will not answer without a mixture of great coal. The increasing expence of removing the superstrata of earth and rock, and of pumping out the water, together with the rise on the rates of labour and wages, have obliged him to raise the price of the boll of shells, by degrees, from 18d. to 22d. per boll, during a period of 24 years. The boll contains 2 barrels, and the barrel 44 pints, Scotch measure. It is the same with the wheat measure of this country, a boll of which is 88 pints. The quantity sold (*communibus annis*) is 20,000 bolls. It is almost entirely used in agriculture; and the demand is greater than can be supplied. It is carried to the distance of 12 miles, by steep, rough roads, over the Hill of Garvock, into the How of the Mearns, (part of the valley of Strathmore); and is found to answer all the expence a considerable way up the sides of the Grampians. With the thin sharp soil of these barren heath-covered muirs it agrees remarkably well; and it is pleasing to see some parts of them annually converted into crops of corn and of grass, by the operation of this valuable manure. The carriage to the greatest distance mentioned, is 1s. per boll. The cart-load is from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 bolls.

The stone is of a blue colour, veined with white; and it is supposed, that, if polished, it would be a beautiful grey marble. It is very hard, and takes a great quantity of gunpowder

powder to force it from its subterraneous bed. It is of an excellent quality. The best proof of this is, that, for mason work, it requires a third part more sand than is usually given. If that spirituous liquor be allowed to be of the strongest quality, which requires the greatest quantity of water to reduce it, by the same analogy it may be admitted, that the lime is of a superior quality, which requires the greatest quantity of sand to reduce it to proper mortar for building. Every boll of this lime requires a cart load of pure sea sand, to prepare it for the use of the mason.—Upon the same farm, to the westward, there is another stratum of lime-stone, of equal quality, and much the same depth, in a high bank, close to the sea. It being impossible to remove the strata of rock and earth above it, Mr. Carnegie began lately to work it by mining, having brought an expert miner from East Lothian for the purpose, who teaches assistants for himself. The experiment has been attended with success, and a great quantity of lime-stone has been forced out, by the irresistible strength of gunpowder. The massy pillars, which are left to support the incumbent hill, and which are open to view, will through time produce a striking effect on the eye. This quarry dips, in a direction from the sea, more rapidly than the other; but it is not yet incommoded with water.

At MILTON, the lime-stone quarry, which consisted of bare rocks within flood mark, is mostly wrought out. Charles Scott, Esq. of Criggie, has lately opened a new one, which, it is hoped, will be useful to the country, and profitable to himself.—At LAURIESTON there is an excellent free-stone quarry, of a brown colour, formed, probably, by the chemical process of nature, from a mixture of red clay and sand. The stone is easily cut, and much used for building, in Montrose and throughout all the country. The quarrying, and carrying these stones, afford employment and bread to many in the parish;

N 2

which

which is also the case with respect to the lime quarries.—On the estate of Woodston, there is another quarry of free-stone, in every respect resembling that of Laurieston. The only advantage, that the latter has, is, that it easily discharges the rain water that falls into it, owing to a stream that runs through the den.—There is another quarry at WHITE CRAIGS, facing the North Esk, from which are turned out stones, of any dimensions, of a beautiful whitish colour, similar to those used in the New Town of Edinburgh; but being reckoned too hard for the mason's chisel, they are used only in rubble building. There is another quarry of the *scurdy*, or whin-stone kind, in the Heughs of St. Cyrus, of a dark blue colour, which is also used in rubble building.

All these quarries are inexhaustible. The two last mentioned are parts of long chains of rocks, which run through the parish, from W. to E. all the way along the coast. Near the E. end of them begins a species of rock, consisting of pebbles, baked, as it were, with a hard cement, (which we call the *plumb-pudding rock*), which continues, with some interruptions, beyond Stonehaven.—The *scurdy* rocks, called the *Heughs of St. Cyrus*, may perhaps have been in a state of vitrification at some remote period. Upon this supposition, the word *scurdy* may be a corruption of the *scoria*, which are the effects of volcanic fire. However that may be, the beautiful pebbles, and spars of different sorts, which are intermixed with these rocks, deserve to be mentioned, as they are certainly well worth the attention of those who delight in mineralogy.

Cave.—Nigh the fall of the burn of Woodston, on the W., there is a natural cave, formed by the rude junction of stupendous rocks, after the manner of a Gothic arch. The entrance to it is on a level with the sea, and the rocks and earth
rise

rise 200 feet above it. The roof is of unequal height, and runs out, it is said, an unexplored length under the rocks that form it.

Plants and Herbs.—Whilst the mineralogist would find pleasure in examining the rocks, the botanist might also be entertained with the herbs and plants, which are to be found either in the Heughs of St. Cyrus, or on the adjoining shore. Professor BEATTIE, *junior*, of the Mareschal College, Aberdeen, who has made botany a good deal his study, favoured the writer of this article with the following list of them:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Valeriana officinalis, | - | Great wild valerian. |
| 2. Phleum pratense, | - | Cat's tail grass. |
| 3. Phleum nodosum, | - | Another species of cat's tail grass. |
| 4. Festuca sylvatica, | - | Wood fescue grass. |
| 5. Bromus sterilis, | - | Barren brome grass. |
| 6. Avena fatua, | - | Bearded oat grass. |
| 7. Arundo arenaria, | - | Sea reed grass. (Bent, Scots). |
| 8. Elymus aromarius*, | - | Sea lime grass. |
| 9. Scabeosa arvenensis, | - | Corn scabius. |
| 10. Campanula glomerata, | - | Lesser Canterbury bells. |
| 11. Pulmonaria maritima, | - | Sea bugloss. |
| 12. Allium vineale, | - | Crow garlic. |
| 13. Rumex maritimus, | - | Sea dock. |
| 14. Epilobium angustifolium, | - | Rose bay-willow herb. |
| 15. Epilobium hirsutum, | - | Hoary willow herb. |
| 16. Silene amœna, Sp. pl. †, | - | Sea campion of Linnæus. |

17. Anterrhinum

* Mr. LIGHTFOOT, in his appendix to the *Flora Scotica*, excludes this from the list of native plants: It is undoubtedly, however, a native of Scotland.

† The plant here intended, though undoubtedly the *Silene amœna* of LINNÆUS, seems to be unknown to our English botanists. None of them, from GERARD downwards, take any notice of it. The plant they have mistaken for it, though very common on our coasts, agrees not with Linnæus's description, in any one specific character. This any person may be convinced of, by consulting

17. Antirrhinum linaria,	-	Toad flax.
18. Turritis hirsuta,	-	Tower mustard.
19. Silene amœna, Bot. Ang.	-	Sea campion.
20. Bunias cakele,	-	Sea rocket.
21. Geranium sanguinarium,	-	Bloody crane's bill.
22. Vicia sylvatica,	-	Wood vetch.
23. Vicia sativa §,	-	Tare vetch.
24. Astragalus arenarius,	-	Mountain milk-wort.
25. Astragalus glycyphyllos,	-	Liquorice vetch.
26. Hypericum quadrangulum,	}	Three species of St. John's wort.
27. Hypericum perforatum,		
28. Hypericum hirsutum,		
29. Tragopogon pratense,	-	Yellow goat's beard, or, John go to
30. Crupes ticctorum,	-	Succory, or Hawk's weed.
31. Carlina vulgaris,	-	Carline thistle.
32. Eupatorium cannabinum,	-	Hemp Agrimony.
33. Conyza squarosa,	-	Spykenard.
34. Filago Germanica,	-	Mountain Cud word.

[bed at noon.]

Kame of Mathers.—Hard by the fall of the stream of Woodston, on the E., stands the KAME of MATHERS, the ancient residence of the Barclays. This kame is built on a peninsular rock, whose base is washed by the sea. A small part of the ruins of this ancient building now remain. It must undoubtedly have been a place of great strength. The access to it is by a narrow and almost impassable isthmus. The rock on which it stands is perpendicular, and its height above the sea 60 feet*.

Laurieston.

sulting Gerard's, Morison's or Parkerson's figure of the *silene amœna*, and comparing it with the description of that plant in the *Species Plantarum*. On the other hand, the *silene amœna* of the English botanists, though one of the most common of our maritime plants, does not seem to be at all described by Linnæus.

§ This differs from the common *vicia sativa*, in having milk white flowers, and only one upon a pedicle. It is not taken notice of by botanical writers.

* Tradition accounts for the erection of this fastness in the following manner :—The sheriff of the Mearns, MELVILLE by name, exercised his authority with

Laurieston.—On the side of the Den of Laurieston stands the ancient castle. It was erected in the 10th or 11th century †. It was formerly surrounded with a deep moat, and walls

with a high hand. He of course became obnoxious to the gentlemen of the county, who complained of his conduct to the king then reigning, who, it is said, was James I. of Scotland. Barclay of Mathers, in particular, made frequent and repeated complaints; tired of which, in a moment of unguarded impatience, the King said to him, “Sorrow gif he were *sodden* and *supped in brie*.” As your Majesty pleases, replied Barclay, who instantly withdrew from the royal presence, and coming home in haste, convened the gentlemen of the county, who were as much dissatisfied with the conduct of the sheriff, as he was himself. Having met in close cabal, they agreed to adhere literally to the King’s words, and to make the innocent, but unguarded expressions of royal impatience, a pretext for destroying the sheriff. In order to accomplish their plan, in a manner the least likely to create suspicion in the mind of Melville, or put him on his guard, they agreed to have a hunting party on the forest of Garvock, and invited him to make one of their number. In the midst of the hunting ground, a fire was by their direction kindled, and a caldron full of water boiled upon it. In the midst of their sport, they rushed with fatal design to this memorable spot, seized the unsuspecting sheriff, stripped him naked, and threw him into the boiling caldron. After he was boiled for some time, *or sodden*, according to the King’s expression, they took each a spoonful of the sup; so *after he was sodden, they supped him in brie*. When the King heard of this tragical event, he was highly incensed against the gentlemen of the Mearns, and particularly against BARCLAY, WISHART, and ARBUTHNOTT, who were the active and leading men in this horrid business. To screen himself from royal vengeance, Barclay built the Kame of Mathers, where in those days he must have been very secure. So tradition reports the story, and many firmly believe it. Indeed, compared with the civilized and gentle manners of our days, those of our forefathers, in every part of Scotland, were rude and barbarous. From the natural aversion which we have to every species of inhumanity and cruelty, a tragic tale of this sort appears scarcely credible. It is affirmed, however, that there is extant, amongst the papers of Arbuthnott, a royal pardon to the Laird of Arbuthnott, for being art and part in that murder; and the ground of this pardon was “because he is within the *tenth degree of kindred* to M’Duff Thane of Fife!”

† In the reign of King DAVID II., in the year 1336, it fell into the hands of the

walls of an immense thickness, part of which, with two of the towers, are still preserved, and incorporated with a new and elegant structure, built on the site of the old castle, by the present proprietor. The greatest part of the estate is beautifully situated, between Den Fenel and the Den of Laurieston. It was for 400 years in the family of *Straton*, of which there were many who signalized themselves by their valour in turbulent times*. The last lineal representative of this family sold the estate, early in this century, to Falconer of Monkton, and died without issue. JOSEPH STRATON, Esq. is descended from this ancient family, and his ancestors have been more than 300 years Lairds of Kirkfide, of which he is the present proprietor. From the heirs of Mr. FALCONER, the estate of Laurieston was lately purchased by JOHN BRAND, Esq.; who is laying out the grounds near the house, in an exceeding good taste. He has thrown a light bridge of one arch over the den, which leads to delightful walks, through trees and shrubs, and is naturally very romantic, though before inaccessible.

Castle of Morphy, &c.—On the S. side of the Den of Morphy stood another ancient castle, the seat of the family of Graham, in whose possession the estate of Morphy has been for several centuries. It was once a place of considerable strength, and secured from the attacks of an enemy by a ditch

the English, who placed a garrison in it, and strengthened it with fortifications. Before that year was expired, the Scotch, under the command of Sir ANDREW MURRAY, forced it to surrender.

* ALEXANDER STRATON, who, with several of his sons, fell in the unfortunate battle of Harlaw, in the year 1411, was one of the Lairds of Laurieston. The STRATONS were a race of men remarkable for size and strength, down to a very late period. Their attachment to this LAURIESTON, in St. Cyrus, which is the original one, was so great, that they changed the name of every other place in Scotland, where any of them settled, into LAURIESTON.

ditch and draw-bridge, according to the genius of those days, but now few remains of it are to be seen. A huge *square stone pillar*, of about 12 feet high, is still standing at *Stone of Morphy*, and seems to have given rise to the name*.

Church.—About 160 years ago, the church of Ecclesgreig stood below the Heughs of St. Cyrus, on the shore, nigh the mouth of the North Esk. The church-yard there still continues, and is used as a burying ground by the parish in general†. In the year 1632, this very incommodious situation of the church was changed, and a new one built on an eminence, a little above the Heughs of St. Cyrus, more convenient to the parish, from its easy access, and central situation. By reason of the increase of the population, this church became too small to accommodate the parish: It was also ill lighted, and narrow, and going fast to decay. The heritors saw the necessity of building a new one; and, in the year 1787, they finished a church, which, for elegance and accommodation, has met with universal approbation. It is adorned with a small spire, which is seen at a considerable distance. The manse has been repaired, and the office-houses rebuilt, during the incumbency of the present minister. The King is the undoubted patron of Ecclesgreig. The present stipend is

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* Whether this ancient pillar was erected, to preserve the memory of some gallant warrior of the name of GRAHAM, or whether it be the only relick of a Druidical temple, it is difficult to determine. But the first conjecture seems to be the most natural; because it is the only stone at that place, and goes by the name of *The Stone of Morphy*.

† Near the church-yard, the sea, in conflux with the varying course of the river, discovered, some years ago, the walls of a house, that had been, from time immemorial, entirely buried under the sand. From its dimensions, internal divisions, and situation, it was undoubtedly the residence of the ministers in ancient times.

85 bolls of victual, partly meal, and partly bear, and 26l. 12s. in money. But an augmentation, with the concurrence of the heritors, will soon be obtained.

School.—The school-house, with abundance of accommodation for the school-master, was rebuilt about 10 years ago. The presbytery have, by a committee of their number, now twice examined the schools within their bounds, and mean to continue the practice annually, as they see the best effects resulting from it. In general, attention is paid to the education of youth, and their morals are not neglected. Indeed, it were to be wished that more encouragement were given to men who have such an important trust, as a spur to their diligence in office, if it would have that effect.

Poor.—The funds, for supporting the poor, arise from the interest of their mortified money, from the collections made for them at the church, and from the fees given for the use of their mortcloths. They receive nothing from marriages, or baptisms, and very little from the fines exacted from those, who have been guilty of irregularity of conduct. The following is a state of the number of the poor, and of the funds for supporting them, from the year 1781, to the year 1791, inclusive.

Years.

Years.	N ^o . of Poor	Interest of their money.			Collections at the church			Fees for mortcloths			Fines for irregularities			Annual distribution.		
		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1781	37	16	13	0	25	10	9	2	4	0	0	0	0	44	7	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
1782	38	16	13	0	27	3	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	3	2	6	3	4	8	50	4	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
1783	58	16	13	0	26	2	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	1	17	6	0	0	0	44	13	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
1784	50	16	13	0	22	8	0	1	11	0	0	18	6	41	10	4
1785	49	16	13	0	31	5	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	2	8	0	1	10	0	50	1	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
1786	39	16	13	0	35	8	10	1	14	9	0	0	0	53	6	7
1787	42	16	13	0	32	9	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	1	6	0	6	8	53	10	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
1788	41	16	13	0	44	6	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	2	16	6	0	0	0	63	15	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
1789	38	16	13	0	39	10	5	3	10	3	1	10	6	55	4	2
1790	37	16	13	0	38	18	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	2	7	3	0	0	0	57	1	8 $\frac{5}{8}$
1791	47	16	13	0	40	11	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	2	7	3	0	6	8	59	18	0 $\frac{1}{4}$

This state of the funds, for the support of the poor, includes 4 collections, of about 4*l.* each, made and given for the support of the lunatic hospital at Montrose. Deducting these collections, the whole has been distributed among the poor.

In the year 1783, when provisions were both dear and scarce, owing to the failure of the crop in 1782, the session, in concurrence with the heritors, broke in upon their funds, and bought meal, which they distributed *gratis* among the poor, together with 29 bolls 2 firlots 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ peck of meal which they received from government. Had not these seasonable reliefs been given, it is not easy to say what would have been the consequence, with respect to the poor, even in this opulent parish. Under this denomination, is chiefly meant poor labourers and householders; for we have very few mendicant poor; but the number of vagrants and strolling beggars is prodigious, and has often been complained of as an insufferable hardship.

State of Agriculture.—Of all the parishes within the county of Kincardine, St. Cyrus has been the first and the best meliorated by improvement. To this the lime quarries at Milton

and East Mathers, have greatly contributed. But these might have perhaps remained in their original state, had not the late ROBERT SCOTT, Esq. of DUNNINAULD, been induced, from the lime rocks within the flood mark at Milton, to rent the farm bearing that name, on the estate of Laurieston. As he was representative in parliament for the county of Forfar, which his son now represents, in going up and coming down from London, he was not inattentive to the system of agriculture followed in England. Finding it superior to any hitherto practised in Scotland, he tried to follow it, first upon his own estate, and afterwards upon the farm of Milton. He set the example of draining, stoning, liming, fallowing, cleaning, manuring, and properly dressing the fields on this farm. The consequence was, he raised great crops of all sorts of grain, as well as of grass. The farmers, who at first held his plans in derision, and were unwilling to leave their own old beaten track, began to be surprised at his great crops; and when experience demonstrated to them the success of his schemes, they gradually turned round to imitate them. Hence arose a spirit of agriculture, and even of emulation in it, which has produced the happiest effects. The well filled barn yards after harvest, are striking and solid proofs of the success, with which this spirit for improvement is crowned. The present high, and still rising rent of land, is another proof of the same fact. Twenty years ago, 10s. or 15s. was thought a high rent for an acre of the best land in the parish. Now, from 20s. to 30s., and even up to 40s. per acre, is given for the same land, in consequence of its melioration; and no sooner does a lease expire, than the farmers strive with one another, who shall be tenant. Another proof of the flourishing state of agriculture in this parish, is, the comfortable manner in which the farmers can afford to live. Notwithstanding the rise of rent now mentioned, and the high price of labour, which shall afterwards

Afterwards be noticed, they, in general, enjoy a pleasing and agreeable affluence, and have it in their power to bring up and educate numerous families, and provide for their future settlement in the world. Such are the happy effects of rural industry!

Mode of Cultivation.—The common mode of treating land here, is, after summer fallow, to lime and dung it; and then to sow, the first year, wheat; the second, peas or beans, or a mixture of both, called *masblie*; the third, barley or Chester bear, with grass seeds. The grass is commonly cut the first year for hay, and pastured two years afterwards. It is then broke up, with one furrow, for oats; next year it is sown with barley, or Chester bear, after three earths, or furrows; the third year, it is wrought into a finer mould for turnips, which are always sown in drills, and well manured; and the fourth year, it is sown with barley and grass seeds. When the soil becomes foul, and is over-run with weeds, a new summer fallow becomes necessary to clear it; and then it is treated in the manner now described. There are, and no doubt will be, several alterations from, and exceptions to this general system. While men speculate in this, as upon other subjects, they will invent new plans, and experience alone must justify or condemn the alteration. Sometimes the ground, after one crop of hay, is broke up with the plough, in the beginning of autumn; and wheat is sown with success. To this succeed turnips, or pease and beans; and the third year barley and grass: It is made hay the summer following; then pastured for a year or two; afterwards plowed for oats, &c.

Sometimes the land thus pastured, is taken for raising *flax*. The flax raisers are often different from the farmers, and pay them 5l. or 6l. an acre, for a single crop of such land as suits their purpose. They pay the expence of the seed, the sowing,

the

the weeding, the pulling, the watering, the spreading on and taking off the grafs; in short, of every thing, but dressing the land, which the farmers, from whom they take it, do for them. Yet, after all, they make a profit by it; otherwise, why would they continue the same practice year after year? If the farmer, however, were to cultivate the flax himself, which is sometimes the case, he would doubtless make more profit by it; but it may be a question, whether the high rent he receives be not equivalent for it? The crop of flax is always removed in sufficient time, to allow him to sow his land with wheat, which is often done to advantage.—About a third part of every farm is reserved for hay and pasture.

Black Cattle.—Considering how much of this parish is always under crop, and how little is reserved for pasture, it must be obvious, that the number of black cattle cannot be great. Yet, if the young are included with the old, the whole number will amount to 1150. Of these there are 100 oxen, all trained to the yoke. They are reared in the parish; and, after serving their masters 4 or 5 years, are carried to market, and sold to great advantage. The price they bring is often from 10*l.* to 15*l.* The number of milk cows is about 420. The rest are young cattle, none of them exceeding 3 years old.

Horses and Sheep.—There are 204 draught, and 10 saddle horses in the parish. The number of sheep is inconsiderable: 1000 will comprehend every little flock in the parish. What sheep we have, however, are of a good kind: Those, in particular, that feed near the shore, furnish mutton of an excellent quality.

Ploughgates and Produce.—There are 50 horse, and 10 oxen ploughgates in the parish, allowing 4 horses and 6 oxen
to

to the plough. From the number of work oxen, it might be supposed, that there would be more oxen ploughs: But many of the farmers keep 12 oxen to one plough, yoking one half in the forenoon, and the other half in the afternoon. By these means, they have time to feed, and the men who manage them are kept in constant work. If we suppose every plough-gate, to spare from its produce 100 bolls for sale, (and the computation is very moderate), it will amount to 6,000 bolls yearly, partly wheat, partly barley, partly oat-meal, and partly beans and pease, after paying the rent, sowing the land, and every other expence that attends agriculture.

Proprietors and Rent.—There are 11 heritors in the parish*, and 27 considerable farmers, besides many more of smaller note. The valued rent is 6,277l. 2s. 4d. Scotch; the real rent, including 850l. for salmon fishing, and 10l. for kelp, is 3778l. Sterling. This state of the real rent may not be perfectly accurate, because 3 of the proprietors have the greatest part of their estates in their own hands; but it is supposed to be near the truth. If the progress of agriculture, for 20 years to come, shall bear any proportion to what it has been for the same number of years past, it is more than probable, that the real rents of the parish will be as many pounds Sterling, as the valued rents are now pounds Scotch.

Population.

* Viz. William Adam, Esq. of Woodston, M. P.—James Scott, Esq. of Brotherton;—Robert Graham, Esq. of Morphy, a minor;—the Earl of Kintore;—the Viscount of Arbuthnott;—Sir Alexander Ramsay Irvine of Balmain, Bart.;—John Brand, Esq. of Laurieston;—Charles Scott, Esq. of Criggie;—James Scott, Esq. of Comiston, a minor;—Patrick Orr, Esq. of Bridgeton;—and Joseph Straton, Esq. of Kirkside. The five last reside in the parish.

Population.—The population has increased considerably within these 40 years.

									<i>Increase,</i>
In the year	1755,	the number of souls,	in the parish,	was	-	1271			
In ———	1781,	-	-	-	-	1687		416	
In ———	1785,	-	-	-	-	1704		17	
In ———	1788,	-	-	-	-	1750		46	
In ———	1792,	-	-	-	-	1763		13	
Total increase in 37 years,								-	492

The number of children born in the parish is, *communibus annis*, about 60. The marriages seldom exceed 12. Indeed, some years, they are not above half that number. With regard to funerals, no regular account of them has been hitherto kept in the parish.

Villages.—The principal village in the parish is MILTON, which stands on the sea coast. In the year 1781, there were 46 families, containing 170 persons, in this village. Their number is at present on the increase. About 30 years ago, three fishing boats belonged to Milton. Six men went out to sea with each boat; who caught haddocks, whittings, cod, ling, skate, turbot, and common flukes, or flounders, in great abundance, which they sold at moderate prices. For several years past, there has been but one boat employed in the white fishing; nor has that boat been successful. The reduction of the fishing boats, and of the number of hands that went to sea with them, is without doubt, a real loss to the country. It leaves no foundation for a nursery of seamen, and prevents the inhabitants from enjoying that abundant supply of excellent food, with which the sea is stored.

These inconveniences might, however, be in a great measure remedied. The fishermen are so poor, in general, that though six of them join their little stocks together, they cannot

not afford to purchase a new boat, when their old one fails. Now, if the proprietors of fishing villages were to furnish the men with good boats, with all their necessary tackling, upon their paying a reasonable rent, as interest for the money, this would be a beneficial public spirited measure, and would greatly encourage the fishing. Another mode of encouraging this useful class of men might also be adopted. Every one knows, that accidents are continually happening, by which the heads of the families employed in fishing lose their lives. The consequence is of the most distressing nature to their numerous, and, very often, young families, who are frequently left in the most destitute circumstances. Now if the county, or if government, sensible of the usefulness of this class of men, for recruiting the navy, would provide subsistence for them in these cases, on this express condition, that all the male children should be brought up to the same occupation, and be ready to serve his Majesty in case of a war, it would have the effect, both to relieve the distressed families, and to increase the number of that hardy and useful race of men*. Indeed, it is well known, that scarce any but the children of fishermen follow the occupation of their fathers, and that they are a kind of distinct tribe, by their manners, and by intermarrying only with each other.

The Village of ST. CYRUS stands beside the church, nigh the centre of the parish. It contains 144 inhabitants, who are mostly mechanics, salmon fishers, or day labourers. Indeed, no neighbouring parish exhibits so cheerful and populous an appearance; for, from one end to the other, the traveller sees, on all hands, numerous, substantial, well built cottages of stone, some of them hewn stone, with well proportioned windows, introducing, at once, light and cheerfulness into the
VOL. XI. P habitations;

* It might also tend, in a great degree, if not entirely, to supersede the necessity of adopting the harsh, unpopular and unconstitutional measure of IMPRESSING SEAMEN.

habitations; besides a number of gentlemen's seats and farm-houses, built in a very superior stile.

Character.—The people of this parish are, in general, active and industrious: Those employed at the lime quarries, and the salmon fisheries, particularly deserve this character. The former, working by the yard, observe the maxim, "The more they work, the more they win," (gain). The latter, when not fishing, employ themselves in their respective trades, or labour by the day to those who employ them *. The female part of the parish is not behind the men in point of industry. They are excellent spinsters, and perform the operation with both hands, spinning two threads at once with the greatest facility. It is a common and an easy task, for one of these two-handed females, to spin 3 spindles in the week; which, at the rate of 1s. 3d. the spindle, comes to 3s. 9d. The writer of this narrative is informed, that, excepting in harvest, 500 spindles of coarse yarn are spun weekly in the parish. This quantity of yarn must bring, at the rate above stated, 31l. in the month; and allowing this to continue 10 months, the total sum made by spinning, in the parish, must amount

* The common hire of the day labourer is 8d. in the short, and 1s. the long day, without maintenance. But, in harvest, the men have 1s., and the women 10d., besides victuals. The farm servants are excellent ploughmen. The Scotch plough alone is used. Their wages are lately advanced from 6l. to 7l., 8l., and even 10l. for the year's service. They usually work 2 horses, 4 hours in the forenoon, and 4 hours in the afternoon. The married servants, who live in their own houses, are allowed 2 pecks of oatmeal in the week, and one half-penny a day, for maintenance. They are engaged by their masters at a public market, without any certificate of their character, and often without any knowledge of their capacity for work. One of these markets for hiring servants is held on the Hill of Garvock, and the other at Laurencekirk. The congress of masters and servants, at these places, is very numerous, and, almost in every point of description, resembles the SATURNALIA of the ancient Romans.

amount to 310l. a year. The yarn is manufactured, at Montrose, into sail-cloth and other purposes. In the above calculation, the fine yarn, which is spun in the parish, and made into linen and diaper for the use of families, is not included. This industrious spirit in both sexes is very commendable †.

The *religious character* of the inhabitants of this parish is moderate. They neither run into the extreme of superstition, on the one hand, nor of fanaticism on the other. In truth, their religion is of the calm mild cast; and they make no great noise or bustle about it, though they are very regular in attending its institutions. The gentlemen of landed property, 5 of whom reside in the parish, are of the Episcopal communion; yet they very frequently, and almost regularly, attend the Established Church, setting at once an example both of piety and liberal sentiment, and increasing the poor's funds by their voluntary offerings. There are a few Seceders, who join a meeting in the neighbouring parish of Benholm; but their number is small; and they make little noise or disturbance, except for REFORM, which, perhaps, *as individuals*, they stand very much in need of.

P 2

NUMBER

† Smuggling had a very bad tendency, some time ago, to unhinge the principles of morality among the lower classes of people on this coast: but the late wise regulations of government have gone far to suppress it; and in proportion as they have taken effect, the morals of the people have improved.

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF FOULDEN.

(County of Berwick—Presbytery of Chirnside—Synod of Merse
and Tiviotdale.)

By the Rev. Doctor DAVID YOUNG.

Extent and Soil.

THE parish of Foulden, in its form, approaches nearer to that of a square than any other; and, in breadth, is about 2 miles, and in length $2\frac{1}{2}$. The soil, on the S. side, is a strong clay; towards the middle of the parish it becomes more loamy, and on the N. it turns considerably light.

Cultivation and Produce.—The whole lands in this parish lay formerly *run-rigg*; which, however unfavourable to improvement, was indispensably necessary, as a bond of defence in those days, when the inhabitants of the Borders were in the practice of committing depredations upon one another. Although these acts of plunder were relinquished, after the revolution in 1688, it was not till within these 40 years, that a full divi-

sion

tion of property took place ; but since the lands were divided, they have been in general well inclosed, and brought to a considerable degree of cultivation. They yield plentiful crops of wheat, barley, oats, pease, turnips, potatoes, and grafs.

Rents, Cattle, &c.—Although these lands fully bear the above description of soil and good quality, the best of them, excepting some crofts, were let no higher than 10s. per acre ; but since the old leases expired, they are now advanced from 10s., to 20s., 30s., and even 40s., which is not too high, considering the short distance from market and lime. Formerly, a large tract of land, on the north side of the parish, called *Foulden Muir*, was occupied by the residents in the village, by way of stents, or pasture for cows and horses, and, in that state, paid very little rent. The grafs of these grounds being always in great plenty, and of good quality, suggested the advantage of bringing them into a state of cultivation. About 30 years ago, when improvements in agriculture were introduced into this part of the country, this piece of land was accordingly plowed up, and yielded a profuse crop, from a good soil. It was soon after let out into different farms, which now pay about 300l. of yearly rent. Some part of this land has been found unfit for husbandry, and is lately planted with firs, which promise a good return in due time. Lime is very much used in this part of the country. There is shell marl in the parish, but it has never been properly tried ; and, for a number of years past, it has been entirely neglected. There is nothing remarkable in the mode of husbandry, nor in the instruments employed in it. The breeding or feeding of sheep has not been tried here, although great part of the lands are very fit for both purposes. The late proprietor had a fine taste for the breeding and feeding of cattle. His horses were the best in the country, and it is but 3 years since the last
of

of his breed of oxen were sold. One ox weighed 128 stone, and was of a very fine shape and make.

Climate, River, &c.—This parish, and some other lands adjoining, stand upon a considerable elevation, which continues to rise, towards the N., for 2 miles; and then slopes gradually, until it reaches the sea banks, which are very high and rocky. There is a river, called *Whittadder*, which runs on the S. side, and empties itself into the Tweed, near Berwick. The bed of the river is very deep, being in no place under 40 yards, and in many places 50 yards, from the top of the bank. These banks are cut, upon the N. side, into very deep dens by nature, through which rivulets of water run, from the whole lands in the neighbourhood, throughout the year. These circumstances, added to an almost unbounded prospect to the S. and W., must contribute to render the air pure and dry, and consequently less susceptible of noxious or infectious taints. It has been frequently remarked here, that the diseases, which are peculiar to our climate, such as intermittent and common continued fevers, putrid fever, and sore throat, are scarce known amongst us, whilst they are sometimes very frequent and mortal, in the parishes immediately adjoining. These diseases have indeed made their appearance here at such times, but unaccompanied with that malignity, which rendered them so fatal to those attacked with them, in less elevated and more moist situations. For these 7 years and upwards, only one young person has died, a female of 16 years of age, and one child. Good health is enjoyed through life, with very little interruption; and, except these two, none have died (residing in this parish), during the above mentioned period, who had not reached at least 60 years; and it is not unfrequent to attain the age of 80, and even 90 years, in the full possession of every faculty.

Population.

Population.—As the records have not been regularly kept, the ancient state of the population cannot be precisely ascertained. A considerable village, containing about 60 families, being now reduced to 16 only, is supposed to have diminished the population; and it is the opinion of old residents, that the number of souls is not so great now, as it was 40 years ago; although, upon comparing the average of baptisms for the last 7 years, with that of the same number of years half a century ago, there appears to be very little difference. Hence some incline to think, that although a number of old people have died, and several others have left the bounds to reside elsewhere, the permanent population is still nearly the same; and the reason they give, is, that several new farms have been erected, with a number of houses, containing many families, which bear a near proportion to the reduction, which has taken place in the village. The former opinion, however, seems nearest the truth, the return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, having been

And the number of persons at present (1793), being only	344
Decrease,	121

Annual average of births,	6	Persons under 10 years of age,	100
marriages,	1	between 10 and 20,	40
deaths,	1	20 and 50,	170
Number of males,	170	50 and 70,	30
females,	174	70 and 90,	4

Ecclesiastical State.—The number of Seceders is very inconsiderable; so that the people, in general, attend the ordinances of religion in the parish church; which was rebuilt in 1786. The manse was built about 14 years before. The stipend, by a late decret of augmentation, is 56l. 10s. in money, and three chalders and a half of barley and oatmeal, equal parts. There is an allowance of 2l. 10s. for the expences of the

the sacrament; and the glebe and garden is worth 20l. Sterling, JAMES WILKIE of FOULDEN, Esq. is patron*.

Antiquities.—There is an old ruin, called *Foulden*, which appears to have been a place of security and strength, in the times of the Border contests. There is also a property, called *Nunlands*, where there was an establishment of nuns in former times; but no record or tradition has been met with, that gives any history of either †.

Markets and Roads.—There are 2 fairs held annually in the village; but little or no business is done at them. A very few cattle appear sometimes for sale, and a small quantity of wool. Formerly, great quantities of shoes were sold at the fairs here, and were bought by the people in Northumberland.—The roads in this neighbourhood have lately undergone a great repair, in consequence of several turnpikes having been erected.

NUMBER

* The present incumbent succeeded Mr JOHN BUCHANAN, whose predecessor, Mr ROBERT PARK, was the first Presbyterian minister of this parish after the Revolution in 1688; the Episcopal clergyman having continued in the charge about eleven years after Presbyterian church-government was established in Scotland.

† There was also a fortified wall on the east end of the village of Foulden, the remains of which were taken down some years ago. The chief design of it seems to have been, for a defence to the residence of LORD ROSS, who took an active part in the wars between England and Scotland, and who was proprietor of the estate of Foulden in those days.

NUMBER VIII.

UNITED PARISHES OF KILMORE AND
KILBRIDE.

(County and Synod of Argyll—Presbytery of Lorn.)

By the Rev. Mr. PATRICK M'DONALD, Minister.

Origin of the Names.

THE oldest etymology of KILMORE, is *Kil-moire* : *Oy*, or *Oigh*, signifying, in ancient Gaelic, the church, or place of worship, of the blessed Virgin. It was also called *Kilmbeanach*, or the middle burial place, from being in the centre of the country. Lately it has been called *Kilmor*, that is, *the great burying place*, (*mor* signifying great or large), because the burial ground around this church was formerly of greater extent, than any other in this part of the country. KILBRIDE is also derived from the same root, *Kil*, and signifies a burial place, or place of worship, dedicated to *St. Bridget*. The church was rebuilt about 50 years ago. It is supposed to have been joined to the parish of Kilmore, at the union of many other parishes in the Highlands, under the charge of one minister. Kilbride was a vicarage, and Kilmore a parsonage.

Situation, Extent, &c.—These united parishes are situated in that district of Argyllshire called *Mid Lorn*. Kilmore is the seat of the presbytery. They are 7 miles long, and 6 broad, and in their form nearly circular. The number of acres cannot be ascertained. An island is annexed, facing *Oban*, named *Kerera*, which is 3 miles in length. It is the property of Mr. M'Dougal of that ilk, excepting one farm, which belongs to Lord Breadalbane.

Surface and Soil.—The country is hilly, but not mountainous. The hills, though low, are covered with heath, excepting a few that are cropped by the sheep, which are increasing in the parish. The vallies are generally arable. The soil is different in different farms; but for the most part shallow and spouty. In many places it is mossy, in some clayish and in others sandy, mixed with gravel. This parish, like most others in this county, is more calculated to produce grass than corn; yet it yields as large a proportion of the latter as any of the adjacent parishes; and from the increasing knowledge of agriculture in this part of the country, more and more of the arable lands are annually brought into cultivation.

Climate and Diseases, &c.—Though the rainy season, in this part of the country, continues nearly two thirds of the year, yet the health of the inhabitants does not suffer, so much as might be imagined; but the grain is much injured by it. Westerly winds prevail to a great degree; but severe frosts, or great falls of snow, seldom occur.—This parish is liable to no particular maladies. Fevers and fluxes are not more common than in the lower parts of the kingdom. Colds and rheumatisms are a little more prevalent, owing perhaps to the humidity of the air. Instances of longevity sometimes occur.

A few

A few are now living in this parish, aged 90 years and upwards, and a few others died lately about the same age.

Cultivation.—The mode of plowing, for 20 years past, was by 4 horses abreast; but now, 2 only are used, which has been found by experience to answer better*. The implements of husbandry have of late undergone a very considerable degree of improvement, insomuch, that they are almost equal to any used in the most improved parts of Scotland. Within these 12 or 14 years, the use of carts has become common, both among the gentry and the farmers, who are sensible of the great utility of them.—The manures are chiefly produced by cattle *housed*, or inclosed in moveable folds, from field to field. Sea ware is also used, mixed with moss and earth. Shell sand, not being found in this part of the country, is brought from the western parts of the counties of Ross and Inverness. It is laid on the lee grounds, produces good crops, and afterwards greatly enriches the pile of grafs. Lime-stone is found here; but the use of it is in a great measure totally prevented, by the expensiveness of the fuel in this parish. The quantity of rain which falls here is so great, as to injure much the peat or turf; yet notwithstanding this disadvantage, and the exorbitant price of coals, owing to the late heavy duty and freight, a few of the inhabitants have made an effort, and burn lime with success.

Q 2

Produce.

* Seed-time is about the middle of March; harvest about the 24th of August; but some very rainy seasons retard the harvest to the succeeding months. In the memorable 1782, the weather being very cold and wet, the price of meal rose to [26s.] per boll; but, from the very great attention of government, in sending a seasonable supply to the poor, and the management of those to whom the distribution was committed, together with the charity and benevolence of the most able and best disposed in the country, the condition of the poor was rendered tolerable.

Produce, &c.—The common crops are barley, oats and potatoes. The ordinary returns are, of barley, from 5 to 6 bolls; of oats, from 3 to 4; and of potatoes, from 6 to 8, for 1 boll. Oats sell at from 13s. to 15s. per boll; barley from 15s. to 17s. ditto, Linlithgow measure; and potatoes from 2s. to 5s. per barrel of 32 English gallons.

Lakes, Rivers and Fish.—There is only one considerable lake in these parishes, named *Lochuell*, from which one of our principal heritors takes his title. It is 2 miles in length: Its greatest breadth is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. It has its name from the Gaelic word *Eal*, signifying a *swan*, a great number of these fowls frequenting it. It is closely guarded by a zealous friend of the family of *Lochnell*. There are other lakes, but very inconsiderable. There is only one small river, which runs about 3 miles, and then falls into an arm of the Western Ocean, called *Loch-feachan*. The fish in these lakes, and in the above mentioned river, and smaller brooks, are salmon, trouts and eels. The salmon are found in considerable numbers in this small river, but of small size.

Sea Coasts, &c.—The coast is of a semicircular form; and, including creeks and bays, may be about 20 miles in extent*. It is in general high and rocky; but, at the end of the bays, flat, and somewhat sandy. The fish caught on this coast are grey fish of different kinds, lythe, some cod and ling, skate, flounders, &c. There are no established fisheries: They have been tried, but with little success; perhaps owing to want of
proper

* There are vestiges of old castles, or watch towers, along the coasts of this parish. It is supposed these towers were built by the Danes. They are built in view of one another, that the alarm of an approaching enemy might be given the more readily.

proper tackle and of perseverance. The sea animals, plants, and sea-ware, are the same as is common over all the Highland coasts. Little kelp is made here: At an average, not above 8 tons per annum. The tide flows northward.

Harbours and Ferries, &c.—There are 4 good ones; namely, *Oban*, *Dunstaffnage Bay*, *Ardintraive*, opposite to Oban, in the island of Kerera, and the *Horseshoe Harbour*, a little to the westward of Ardintraive in the same island. There are 3 ferries, viz. *Conil Ferry*, between this parish and that of Ardchattan; *Port Kerera*, between the main land and that island; and the *Mull Ferry*, between the latter and the Island of Mull. There is a very remarkable current at the Ferry of Conil. From the Sound of Mull enters an arm of the sea, which runs up about 8 miles due E. to *Bunaw*, in Muckairn, where the Lorn-Furnace Company have their residence. It then turns to the N. E., through a glen in Ardchattan parish, named *Etive*, about 10 miles. At Conil, where it enters by a narrow pass, being confined at half flood, and half ebb, it rushes through with impetuous force, like a rapid river, over a rock, which is seen at low ebb, and reaches almost from side to side; excepting that, on the Kilmore side, it has an opening wide enough for vessels of considerable burden to pass through. The sea, at half tides, pours furiously, and with some noise, over this rock, and forms a vast variety of little whirlpools, especially on the side next the ocean. The ferry here, though in appearance very formidable, is yet safe, by reason of the skill of the ferrymen in piloting their boats through it; and may be crossed with safety, when some greater, and seemingly smoother ferries cannot.

Volcanic Appearances.—There are some appearances of this kind on part of the coast. There are stones of different species,

cies, and metals, (many of them round), found, stuck and cemented in the face of the rocks, as if placed by art. Dr. HERVEY, the Bishop of *Derry*, and some other naturalists, who were on a tour through this country a few years ago, asserted, that these appearances were certainly volcanic. They evidently bear the traces of having been in an *igneous* state at some distant period.

Echoes and Caves.—There is a very remarkable echo, a little to the N. W. of the old Castle of Dunstaffnage, lying near Conil Ferry, 2 English miles to the N. W. of it. It comes from an old chapel, where some of the ancient kings of Scotland are said to have been buried. It is near a rock, on the S. side of it, one point of which stretches towards the chapel. If a man is placed on the one side of the point, and speaks, reads, or cries aloud, the sound of his voice is heard on the other side, so distinctly reverberated from the chapel, as to make him imagine it comes from a person within the chapel*.—There have been many caves, but most of them are filled up by time. Urns have been found in several of them. There is a very remarkable one, in the face of a rock in the neighbourhood of Oban, narrow at the mouth, and extending to an unknown length backwards. A collection of human bones and skulls still remain in it†.

Roads

* It is affirmed, that at some former period, a man contracted an illness, which terminated in death, by hearing a sermon on mortality read to him by an alarming voice, in the dusk of the evening, from the opposite side of the point, by a person who concealed himself. He believed the address came from one of the dead in the chapel. It warned him to prepare for death.

† The account given of this collection is this, as related to the author of this article, by an old person still living in the neighbourhood: About 100 years ago, a relation of this person, having taken some umbrage at his grandfather, left his house, with the purpose of revenge. He went to Ireland, and, some
years

Roads, Bridges, &c.—There is one great line of road finished, from Conil Ferry to the extremity of the parish, on the S., about 6 miles in length; another from Oban to Kilmore Kirk, across the middle of the parish eastward, about 4 miles in length; and a third from Oban to Conil, running also eastward. It is now the common road for carriages, &c. from Oban to Inveraray.—Bridges are thrown over wherever they are necessary. These roads have all been made during the incumbency of the present minister, within these last 33 years. There are 4 principal inns, viz. at Oban, Conil, Claghchombie*, and Kilmore, nigh the kirk, besides several smaller ones. There is rather too much whisky drunk in all of them.

Black Cattle and Horses.—The breed of black cattle in this parish is of the best West Highland kind. They are a good deal larger than those in the North Highlands, and are much approved of at market.—Such as are bred by gentlemen of property, bring from 4l. 10s. to 5l. 10s. a head; and some have been sold at 6l. and upwards. The cattle bred by the
tenantry,

years after, returned with a banditti of miscreants, with whom he conspired to set fire to the village near Oban, in which his grandfather dwelt. On the appearance of the vessel, which brought them before Oban, the inhabitants received intelligence of their intentions, and likewise of the crew being infected with the pestilence; on which the inhabitants collected a superior force, watched their landing, apprehended them, and shut them up within the cave, where, by the humanity of the young man's grandfather, they were (though closely guarded), fed for some time, till they all died of the disease which they brought to land with them.—A man, who died lately, once visited this cave in his younger years, in the hopes of finding a treasure in it; but found only a gold headed cane, and a large silver brooch. These, however, he afterwards returned, being *haunted*, as he believed, by *spectres*, till he had done so. The story has a superstitious aspect, but is easily accounted for, by the force of imagination.

* Claghchombie inn is situated where the roads from Oban to Inveraray, and from Conil to Nether Lorn-crofs, meet. It is not far from Kilmore, and was on the common carriage road to Oban, till of late, that the lower one was finished.

tenantry, or lower class of people, are sold from 3l. 5s. to 3l. 10s. at present*. The horses are stronger than those in the North Highlands. They are exceedingly hardy and fit for every kind of labour. Their size is from 12 to 14 hands high; and they are strongly made.

Sheep and Swine.—Sheep stocks are but lately introduced here. Hitherto they have answered very well. They are of the black faced kind, bred in Annandale, and the high grounds about Moffat. As they increase in numbers, they contribute much to wear off the heath; inasmuch, that several hills, covered with it about 30 years ago, have now got a beautiful surface of grass; although, alas! at the expence of reducing the number of the poor farmers; many of the villages being quite depopulated. A few persons rear swine, in small numbers; but they are not of a good quality.

Wild Quadrupeds.—Quadrupeds of the wild kind, here, are such as are common in most parts of the Highlands of Scotland; a few roes, many hares, of the largest size, wild cats, and a few badgers and otters, which are numerous. The foxes are nearly extirpated. There are many pole-cats, and beautiful weasels, besides rats, mice, and moles.

Birds.—There are moor-fowls, black and red; but not in such numbers as formerly, owing to burning the heath, and the increase of the sheep. There are also plovers, wild pigeons, crows, and rooks; the latter are become so numerous, as to be very destructive to the grain and potatoes. Of the migratory kind, we have wood-cocks, swallows, snipes, a few green plovers, and

* Beef, from 3d. to 4d. per lb.; mutton, 4d. to 5d.; veal, 3d.; lamb, 5d. to 6d.; pork, 3d.; a goose 2s. 6d.; duck 1s.; hens from 6d. to 8d.; eggs, 2d per dozen.

and cuckoos; of the smaller birds such as are common through Scotland. We have also water fowls of various kinds. There is one kind of duck, of the migratory tribe, called the *widgeon*. They abound much in our bays. They appear about the beginning of winter, and migrate about the end of spring. If the end of autumn is severe and stormy, they appear sometimes before winter.

Rents and Heritors.—The valued rent, as stated in 1751, was 389l. 10s. 4d.: the real rent may be at present about 3280l. There are 13 heritors, great and small, in the parish, of whom only 4 reside. Services are in a good measure abolished; but too many still remain.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church of Kilmore was built about 300 years ago. It was originally in the form of a cathedral, and continued so during the establishment of Episcopacy in Scotland; but, on the introduction of Presbytery, as the old building became decayed, a part of it was repaired, and reduced to the size of an ordinary large kirk, about 60 feet long, and 20 broad.—The kirk of Kilbride is of a lesser size, 40 feet in length, and 16 in breadth. The walls of Kilmore church are very sufficient: The roof and windows have received repairs at different times. It is poorly seated; but there is reason to think, that the heritors will soon make up this defect. The kirk of Kilbride is not so sufficient in the walls, as that of Kilmore; and the seats are equally bad. It stands greatly in need of repairs. Neither of them have church-yards; but it is proposed to have them soon. Indeed, a few excepted, the kirks in the West Highlands are in a miserable condition, compared with those in many other country parishes in Scotland. But, as improvements of all kinds are every where going on rapidly, we hope the churches, in this

part of the country, will soon come in for their share.—The manse was built in 1760; but it is very slight and insufficient. It underwent some repairs not long ago; but it can never be made a good house. The stipend, on the admission of the present incumbent, was stated to him at 60 bolls and 2 pecks of oatmeal, (9 stones per boll), and 39l. 7s. 9½d. Sterling in money. The meal, at the old conversion of 100l. Scotch per chalder, with the money, after deducing 5l. Sterling for communion elements included therein, reduces the stipend to 65l. 12s. 9½d., together with a competent glebe.—The Duke of Argyll is patron.—The whole parish observe the rites of the Established Church, excepting 2 or 3 families, who are of the Episcopal persuasion. There is only a single family of the Secession.

Schools.—There is one parochial school kept at Kilmore. There is no school-house; but it is proposed to build one soon. The stated salary is 10l. Sterling, with the interest of 1000 merks Scotch: But this last sum is on a precarious footing, there being reason to apprehend, that the interest will be reduced. The number of scholars is fluctuating; in winter and spring from 30 to 40, seldom 50. The situation is very central for a numerous school; and there have been at different periods very flourishing schools at this station. But, owing to the reduction of part of the funds which made up the salary, the want of proper boarding places, and the short continuance of several of the teachers, the school, for some years back, has greatly declined. The quarterly payments for teaching, are, English, 1s.; ditto and writing, 1s. 6d.; arithmetic, 2s. 6d.; Latin, 2s. 6d. There is a flourishing school at Oban, which will be noticed afterwards. There is one charity school in the island of Kerera, and one or more smaller schools,

schools, kept up at the expence of the inhabitants, in the remote parts of the parish.

Poor.—The poor are supported chiefly by the inhabitants of the parish. They beg from door to door; but are not very troublesome in this way, although the funds are by no means adequate to their numbers and wants: The whole amount, for many years, was from 12l. to 14l., arising from the weekly collections, and from a small mortification or two. But of late 32l. 2s. 3½d. was added by the commissioners of the customs, 30l. of which is laid out at interest, and the odd money (2l. 2s. 3½d.) was distributed among the poor, at the time when the order was given by the commissioners.

Population.—The number of inhabitants has greatly increased within the last 50 years: For, notwithstanding that many farms have been turned into grazings, yet such is the spirit of improvement, in making roads, inclosures by stone walls and ditches, building houses, &c. that the population, instead of diminishing, has increased above a third within that period.

It is difficult, however, to ascertain the exact number of the inhabitants of both these parishes, as they are in a very fluctuating state, by many annually going to the Low Country, and from one part of this country to another; but from the two last years lists*, there appeared to be, at an average, of inhabitants, of all ages,

	Examined persons.	Souls.
In 1791, in Kilmore, about	-	700
In 1791, in Kilbride, about	- 500	600
In 1791, in Oban,	- 440	586
In all,	- 940	1886
R 2		In

* The difference between this and last year's account (OBAN excepted) is very inconsiderable.

In 1755, the total number, as returned to Dr. Webster, was only

- - - - - 1200

Increase, - 686

Account of BAPTISMS and MARRIAGES, from 1st January 1784 to 1st January 1792, in both parishes*.

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.
1784,	51	12
1785,	45	11
1786,	46	11
1787,	43	14
1788,	46	16
1789,	53	17
1790,	52	13
1791,	59	10

Manufactures.—Of late a small branch of the cotton manufacture was introduced into this quarter, by Mr. DAVID DALE of Glasgow; but its progress has hitherto been greatly retarded by the dearth of fuel. That cause being now removed, other gentlemen of enterprise and public spirit have it in contemplation, to establish works of the same kind.

VILLAGE of OBAN.—This village is situated on the N. W. side of the parish, and covered from the Western Ocean by the Island of KERERA. It has two entries, one from the S., and one from the N. The first house of any consequence in Oban was built about 80 years ago, by a trading company of Renfrew. They used the house as a store-room; Oban being considered, even then, as one of the most convenient situations in

* The above lists are taken from October to October, according to the tax regulation established by government.—There is no list of burials kept in this parish.

in this country for trade. The next building was a custom-house, which was erected 28 years ago; Oban being reckoned a proper place for clearing out vessels for the herring fishery. It was soon after made the place of general rendezvous for the herring bufl'es; and for many years, they reforted to it in great numbers, till other places of the fame kind were appointed. About the year 1778, the fpirit of building arofe in this village, and has been gradually increafing till the prefent time. It was on that fide of Oban which belongs to the Duke of ARGYLL, that thefe buildings were firft erected. But now, Mr. CAMPBELL of *Dunstaffnage* has feued out part of his property, for the fame purpofe, on the other fide; and the demand for new lots daily increafes. Behind the village, there is a fhallow lake of fome extent, with floping banks, which are cultivated for hay, corn, and garden ftuffs. The lake might, at fome expence, be drained. There is alfo a water that runs from it, into the fea, and divides the Duke of Argyll's farm from Dunstaffnage's lands.

Bay and Shipping.—The Bay of Oban is of a femicircular form, and from 12 to 24 fathom deep. It is large enough to contain 500 fail of merchantmen. The anchorage is every where good. About 20 years ago, there were from 20 to 30 veffels registered at Oban, which were chiefly employed in the fisheries; but, from the decreafe of that trade on the N. W. coaft, the number of veffels is now much fmaller. Still, however, there are from 15 to 20 floops employed in the fifhing and coafting bufinefs; and one veffel, from 250 to 300 tons, is employed in the Baltic trade. But the traders, and inhabitants in general, labour under great inconvenience for want of a *proper quay* to difcharge their goods. It is hoped this defect will foon be fupplied.

Church

Church proposed.—It is intended to build a chapel of ease in Oban, as the number of the inhabitants are rapidly increasing, insomuch, that none of the parish churches can contain them. The building will be begun, as soon as proper funds are collected for that purpose, and for affording a competent salary to the preacher.

School.—There is a very good school-house. It was built by the Duke of Argyll, and the inhabitants; who make up a salary to the schoolmaster of 20l. a year. His other emoluments are considerable. The number of scholars, is at an average, from 40 to 50 through the year.

Population of Oban.—The total number of families in

Oban, is - - - - - 111

The number of souls (as above noticed), is - - - 586

Of the different professions, there are in this village,

Clerks, - - - - 7	Baker, - - - - 1
Slaters, - - - - 5	Currier, - - - - 1
Labourers, - - - - 24	Tanners, - - - - 4
Sawers, - - - - 7	Sailors, - - - - 19
Coopers, - - - - 3	Joiners, - - - - 17
Weavers, - - - - 17	Smiths, - - - - 12
Painter, - - - - 1	Shoemakers, - - - - 25
Tailors, - - - - 9	Merchants, - - - - 5
Carpenters, - - - - 12	
Masons, - - - - 3	Total, - £ 173
Barber, - - - - 1	

Improvement

§ Besides these, there are a good many other tradesmen scattered over the parish.—Men servants get from 5l. to 6l. per annum;—women, from 2l. to 2l. 10s.;—day labourers, from 10d. to 14d. per day;—masons, 2s.;—wrights, from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 8d.;—tailors, 8d., with maintenance. But tailors, shoemakers, weavers, &c. when working by the piece, earn, at an average, from 16d. to 18d. per day; ship carpenters, 2s.; and house ditto, from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 10d.

Improvement of the Village.—This village arose from a very small beginning. Till the custom-house was built, it consisted of only 2 or 3 houses of mean appearance. But after the custom-house was erected, and some trade began to arise, from the convenient situation of the bay, lying near the Western Ocean, and in the vicinity of a populous country, the attention of the Duke of Argyll, Mr. Campbell of Dunstaffnage, and some other persons particularly interested in the prosperity of the village, was attracted. They feued grounds for building to a very considerable extent; and a great addition of buildings is to be made this year. If encouragement is given to the trade of the place, by erecting a quay, it will go on to increase to a very great height.—We cannot omit mentioning here, with all due respect, two gentlemen, brothers, of the name of STEVENSON, who have contributed very much by their industry and activity, to the improvement and prosperity of Oban. They came to the place in 1778, in the line of plain tradesmen; and, by their genius and ability, displayed in various branches of traffic, they have greatly improved their own fortunes, while they have at the same time promoted the good of the country at large: Oban, in particular, may look on them as its founders; for the elder brother commenced, and successively keeps up the business of ship-building; a branch never attempted to any extent before in this country. And the younger brother employs also many artificers in house-building. In a word, Oban and its environs are singularly indebted to them.

Character of the People.—The change in the circumstances, the appearance, and the morals of the people of the lower class, in this parish, has been considerable, since the present incumbent's admission. In respect of the first, three small villages, of tolerable black farm-houses, were almost wholly stocked

stocked with inhabitants, consisting of tenants and cottagers. The rents being then very moderate, the people lived comfortably in their line, though on simple fare, and in homely clothing. But, since that period, the rents have been doubled, nay, in some parts tripled; and many of their possessions have been taken by the more opulent: The lower tenants were, of course, obliged to remove and shift for themselves. The aged, the feeble, and the poorer sort, became cottagers; but the most vigorous, and by far the greatest number, engaging in the public works, which were carrying on over the country to a very great extent, found means to subsist more comfortably. This circumstance afforded them a very providential relief, and tended to prevent their being infected by the prevailing spirit of emigration. As to their appearance, if we were to judge from the change in their dress and manner of living, (particularly of the workmen and servants), more especially of the younger sort, many of them have arrived at such a pitch of gaiety in the one, and of expence in the other, that their circumstances would appear to be much improved: But there is reason to believe, the change is more to be ascribed to their advance in luxury, than in opulence. It deserves, however, to be remarked, that the old tenants have hardly made any alteration in their manner of living. The excursions made to the Low Country, by the labourers and servants, may account, in a good measure, for *their* advancement in luxury, in dress and living. These excursions have also made a considerable change on their language, and on their demand for wages, perhaps little to their own advantage, and certainly not to that of their country. The hardship is particularly felt from the demands of household servants, whose high wages have become an intolerable grievance. On account of their frequent intercourse with the Low Country, they very soon learn the English language, inso-

much

much that most of them can speak it tolerably. But it is to be regretted, that they adulterate their native forcible language with Anglicisms, which produce a disagreeable medley.

Morals.—The people of this parish have been, since the present incumbent's admission, as regular, on the whole, as any on the Western Coast. Indeed, he has observed, that, not only within his own parish, but within the bounds of the presbytery in general, there has been, since his first acquaintance with them, a very remarkable change to the better, in one very important part of duty, namely, in their attendance on, and decent behaviour at public worship, and at all religious ordinances. Most of them are likewise docile and fond of instruction: And few people are less subject to religious divisions. A tincture of enthusiasm indeed, never before known, began of late years, to infect a certain corner within the bounds of this presbytery, and to spread its baneful influence among a few individuals in the adjacent parish; but, by every appearance, it is now on the decline. The inhabitants, in general, are rational in their religion; sober, with a very few exceptions; laborious and industrious: The gentlemen are well-bred, polite, discreet and hospitable.

NUMBER IX;

PARISH OF GARTLY

(County of Banff—Presbytery of Strathbogie—Synod of Moray.)

By the Rev. Mr. JAMES SCOTT, Minister.

Form and Extent.

THE parish of Gartly is of an oval form, though not very regular. It is about 12 English miles in length, from E. to W.; and 6 in breadth, from S. to N., about the middle.

River and Fish.—It is divided nearly in the centre, by the rivulet *Bogie*; which, running in a serpentine form, also divides the counties of Banff and Aberdeen, as it falls to the N., and forms a very pleasant strath, from which this county derives its name, *Strathbogie*. Its banks are mostly covered with aller; and it abounds with excellent yellow trouts, and salmon in the spawning season.

Surface and Soil, &c.—The boundaries of this parish, both on the

the E. and W. sides, are hilly, and mostly covered with heath. In these hills there is plenty of moss, which not only supplies the inhabitants of the parish, but also the town of Huntly, with fuel. From these hills several small brooks fall into the Bogie. The vallies, supplied by these brooks, are very fertile, as well as the lands on the different sides of the Bogie, when properly cultivated, though in general rather late.

Cultivation and Produce.—The cultivation of the soil has been annually more and more attended to, since the year 1770. At that time there were only two gentlemen farmers, (both of whom had been in the army), who had a field in turnips or sown grass; whereas now there is not one, who has not more or less of his farm under these crops. One of these gentlemen, who first set the example, and who is still resident in the parish, is now carrying his improvements still farther, by introducing horse-hoeing; whereby he raises most luxuriant crops of cabbages and turnips. The crops are, bear, oats, pease, and potatoes; and the returns from these do much more than supply the wants of the parish.

Cattle.—The lands are now mostly tilled with horses, which are of different sizes, fitted for the different ways they are employed; and are in number above 340. The black cattle here are generally small, but of a very tight Highland breed, and about 1,500 in number. The sheep are also of a small kind, and in number betwixt 4,000 and 5,000.

Minerals.—There is a lime quarry in the parish, but so deep, and expensive to work, that the farmers, rather than dig stone from it, choose to bring their lime from the distance of 4 or 5 miles. There is also a very fine slate quarry in the parish.

The slates found in it are of a dark blue colour, and very durable and light.

Proprietor and Rent.—The Duke of Gordon is sole proprietor of the parish. The yearly rent is about 1,600l. Sterling; and the valued rent 2,080l. Scotch.

Population.—The number of inhabitants, about 10 years ago, was greater than it is at present. This decrease can only be imputed to the principal tenants extending their farms, and removing their cottagers. Within these 40 years, however, it has increased considerably, as appears from the following table:

POPULATION TABLE of the Parish of GARTLY.

Number of souls in 1783,	-	2000	Annual average for the last 10 years,	
Ditto in 1793,	-	1800	Of births,	- - - 21
		—	— marriages,	- - - 6
Decrease in 10 years,	-	200	— burials *,	- - - 24
		—		
Number of souls in 1755,	-	1328		
		—		
Increase in 38 years,	-	472	* Several of these are from other	
			parishes.	

Wages.—Day labourers, in winter, get 6d. per day; in summer, 8d.; in autumn, 1s., with their victuals. Men servants receive, per annum, from 6l. to 7l. Sterling: Women servants, by the year, from 2l. 10s. to 3l., and herds in proportion. Country wrights, that go from house to house, get 6d. per day in winter, and 8d. in summer, with their victuals. Tailors receive 6d., besides their maintenance.

Church and School.—The kirk was built in the year 1621, and was lately repaired very substantially. A new manse was built

built in the year 1756: Both it and the school-house are in good repair. The stipend is not quite 60l. Sterling. The Duke of Gordon is patron.

Poor.—The poor's funds are from about 150l. to 200l. The number of poor on the roll is from 20 to 23; among whom are divided from 24l. to 27l. annually, arising from the collections, interest on the funds, mortcloth, &c.; besides occasional supplies to some necessitous persons not on the roll.

Diseases and Character, &c.—It cannot be said, there is any disease peculiar to this parish; but several of its inhabitants are affected with scrofulous and gravellish complaints*.—They are, in general, industrious, orderly, and well affected to government.—There are two licensed distillers in the parish.

NUMBER

* Instances of longevity are not uncommon. A farmer, named JOHN FER-
RIER, died at Kirkney, in this parish, in the year 1788, aged 102. The only
antiquity in the parish is an old ruin, called the *Place of Gartly*.

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF KILWINNING.

*(County of Ayr—Presbytery of Irvine—Synod of Glasgow
and Ayr.)*

By the Rev. Mr. THOMAS POLLOCK.

Origin of the Name.

THE KELEDEES, or CULDEES, are supposed to have been originally Christian Britons; and, about the latter end of the third century, to have fled into this country, to avoid the barbarous and inhuman cruelties, inflicted upon the Christians, during the persecution under *Dioclesian* the Roman Emperor. They were said to have been distinguished for their great learning, extraordinary piety, exemplary decency and purity of life and manners; and, as ministers of religion, being unwearied in the faithful discharge of their duty, they were universally held in the highest esteem and veneration. From their retired and solitary way of living, their usual places of residence were called *cells*; and, after their deaths, were turned either into parish churches, or monasteries. These religious houses were often dedicated to the memory, and bore

bore the name of the Keledee, who had been born, or educated, or buried in, or near such places. From *Cella Winnini*, therefore, it is highly probable this parish takes its name. There is a well, at no great distance from the manse, called *Winning's Well*; and a fair, held annually, on the first day of February, is called *Winning's-day Fair*. Not many years after the erection of the monastery, Kilwinning, all over this part of the country, was called *Saig-town*; and, by this name, it is still very well known to the inhabitants. *Saig-town* is evidently a corruption of *Saints-town*. From the mortified and contemplative lives of the monks, from the frequency of their devotions, and other religious exercises, and from their reputation for learning and knowledge, they were regarded by the superstitious, ignorant, and credulous laity, as an order of superior beings. Nothing, therefore, could be more natural, than to call the place, where persons of such characters lived, *Saig-town*, or the Town of the Saints. It ought also to be observed, as it very strongly marks the spirit and manners of those dark ages, that the fairs, in all the towns and villages connected with the monastery, were named after some particular saint, who was afterwards accounted the protector or tutelar saint of the place: Such as, *St. Anthony*, *St. Colm*, or *Columba*, *St. Margaret*, *St. Bride*, or *Bridget*. The days on which these fairs are held, are still called after the saint whose name they bear; as, *Colm's-day*, *Margaret's-day*, &c.

Situation and Extent.—It is situated in Cunninghame, one of the districts or subdivisions of the county of Ayr, and is separated from the West Coast, or Irish Sea, by part of the parishes of Irvine and Stevenston. It is supposed to be 9 English miles in length, and, in some parts of it, not much less in breadth. The figure, however, it forms, is very irregular, being in several places intersected by the neighbouring parishes

parishes. There is no map of the parish, nor has any regular measurement ever been made of it. For this reason, the precise number of acres it contains cannot be ascertained.

General Appearance.—It rises gradually from the W. and S. and S. W., to the E. and N. E. In both these directions, it terminates in what may be reckoned high lands, but without any intervening high hill, or mountain. The face of the parish is beautifully diversified, by these easy, natural risings, which slope gently towards the sea. The summits of many of them, and particularly of such as are in the more immediate neighbourhood of the town, were planted by the late Earl of EGLINTOUNE. The greater part of these plantations, being rather more than 40 years old, give a rich and very highly cultivated appearance to this part of the country.

Climate, Diseases, and Longevity.—The frequent, and sometimes heavy rains that fall here, are probably owing to the parish being so very near the sea, and to its situation with respect to Kintyre to the Islands of Arran, of Bute, and the other Western Isles. The atmosphere, by these rains, is often rendered thick and cloudy. The denser parts of the clouds, however, being attracted by the high hills on the S. and N., the air is, for the most part, drier and purer, than in those parishes which are near or contiguous to these high hills. The rains, therefore, which fall here, though frequent, and at times severe, are not known to produce any malignant epidemical disorders. Diseases of this kind are, almost always, brought into the parish from its intercourse with other places, either nearer or more remote; and they are even less malignant, or not so fatal, as in those parts from which they are brought. From this peculiar wholesomeness and purity of the air, the inhabitants are, in general, very healthy. Many of them
live

live to a very advanced age. Within these 40 years, several have died considerably above 80. During this period, a man died at 91, and a woman at the very great age of 104. There are now living 2 men of 85, one of 91, and not a few persons, of both sexes, between 70 and 82.

Small Pox.—This disease, it must be acknowledged, is a melancholy exception to these facts. It rages here, at times, with the utmost violence, and is often extremely fatal. In the summer and autumn of 1791, upwards of 90 children had the natural small pox, and more than one half of them died. The chin-cough and natural small pox not unfrequently prevail at the same time. When this happens, as was the case at the above period, the ravages committed by this last disease, are truly dreadful. The coincidence of these diseases might, in a great measure, be prevented by inoculation. But though in this, and in every other respect, inoculation is attended with the happiest consequences, it is only practised here in two or three families. From ignorance, and the most superstitious prejudices, the parents, regardless, or insensible of consequences, instead of inoculating their children, crowd into those houses in which the disease is of the most malignant nature, and at a time when it is the most infectious. The very worst kind of this dangerous and loathsome disease is, in this manner, communicated and spread, and thousands of valuable lives are lost to the community. This impious presumption, these illiberal and groundless prejudices, are not peculiar to this parish; in every other country parish in Scotland, the great bulk of the people think and act pretty much in the same way. It is well known, at least to the clergy, that every argument in support of inoculation, however conclusive or self-evident, makes no impression upon their minds. To make a law, obliging all persons, without distinction, to

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inoculate their children, would be thought inconsistent with the liberty of British subjects, and even with the common principles of humanity. But as the prosperity, nay the very existence of every country, is inseparably connected with the number of its inhabitants, something certainly ought to be attempted, to render, if possible, inoculation in Scotland more general than it is at present. With a view to this, the following outlines of a scheme are humbly proposed.

1st, That by an act of parliament, all the surgeons in Scotland be appointed, under certain penalties, to keep regular separate lists, both of these children who are inoculated by them, and of those under their care, who take the disease in the natural way; and to state the precise number of such as die of the inoculated, and of the natural small pox.

2dly, In order to fix, with the utmost certainty, the exact number of those children who take the natural small pox, that all parents be appointed, by the same authority, and under the same penalties, to inform their family surgeons, even of such of their children, as have the disease in such a favourable way as not to need the assistance of a surgeon.

3dly, That those lists be signed, and sent to Edinburgh, once every year, or oftener, if it shall be judged necessary; and printed under the particular direction of government.

4thly, That when printed, these lists shall be immediately transmitted to the magistrates and clergy of every town, and to the justices of the peace, and the clergy of every country parish, to be by them distributed, and made as universally known as possible among the people.

5thly, That a salary to the surgeons, adequate to their trouble, be established by government; as well as a fund for inoculating the children of the poor.

A series of facts, thus clearly and fully stated and authenticated, will, by degrees, it is hoped, convince even the most ignorant and prejudiced of the propriety and necessity of inoculation; and, at last, make them readily and cheerfully fall in with a practice so wonderfully calculated, under God, to preserve life.

Lakes, Minerals, and Mineral Waters.—There is only one lake in the parish, called the *Ashen-yard Loch*. It abounds in excellent pikes and perches.—There are quarries of free-stone in different parts of the parish. Some of these stones are of a very fine quality; and are carried in considerable quantities to Irvine, and to several other places in the neighbourhood. Lime-stone, of the very best kind, and in very great plenty, is to be found in almost every quarter and division of the parish.—There is one chalybeate spring close by the town; from the use of which, persons, labouring under nervous complaints, have received considerable benefit.

Collieries.—There are three collieries in the parish, viz. *Easter Dowra*, belonging to Lord Lisle, which lets at 140l. per annum. At this work from 12 to 16 colliers are employed. *Laigh Fergus-bill*, belonging to the heirs of the late Mr. M'Dowal, which is at present under lease, for a year, at 100l. *Monk-greenan*, the property of Mr. Bowman of Ashgrove. From 4 to 6 men are here usually employed. It is let at 10l. a year. From the two first of these coal-works, there is still an exportation to Ireland, from the port of Irvine. This trade, however, is now very trifling and inconsiderable, compared to what it was formerly.

State of Property.—The valued rent of the parish is 630l. Scotch; The real yearly rent is thought to be about 6000l.

Sterling; and the rent of the houses in the town 475l. 16s. The Earl of Eglintoune is proprietor of more than a third part of the lands of the parish. There are 8 other considerable proprietors; 4 of whom reside in it; and 60 small proprietors, called feuers, 15 of whom are non-residing. There have been

New houses built, within these 10 years,	-	-	-	-	16
Houses pulled down, and rebuilt on a much neater and more commodious plan than formerly,	-	-	-	-	16
Weavers shops new built,	-	-	-	-	6
The number of farms is	-	-	-	-	132
The size of the farms is reckoned to be from 15 to upwards of 100 acres.					
Number of houses in the town,	-	-	-	-	183
Average rent yearly,	-	-	-	-	2l. 12s.
Uninhabited houses*,	-	-	-	-	2

Rivers and Fish, &c.—There are 2 rivers in the parish, *Garnock* and *Lugton*. The last of these rises in the parish of *Neillston* in *Renfrewshire*. It runs through a great part of this parish, and falls into the *Garnock*, about an English mile below *Eglintoune Castle*. There is plenty of very fine trouts in it. *Garnock*, by far the most considerable of these 2 rivers, has its source in the high hills in the parish of *Kilbirney*, about the distance of 10 English miles from the town of *Kilwinning*. After running for some miles through this parish, it falls into the *Irish Sea* at the harbour of *Irvine*. It is well stored with salmon, and with different kinds of excellent trouts. The salmon fishing, in this river, is at the best in the month of July; and is the exclusive property of Lord *Eglintoune*, from about one fourth of a mile above the town, to where the river falls into the sea. Like all rivers which have their sources in very elevated situations, it is liable to sudden

* These 2 houses are in the parish. In the town, the houses are all inhabited.

sudden inundations*. On this river, and also on the Lugton, there are some situations extremely proper for erecting cotton mills. There is a plentiful and constant supply of the very best water for all kinds of machinery; a populous and highly cultivated country, in the near neighbourhood of some good market towns; oatmeal, the ordinary food of the labouring people, is cheaper by 1d., and sometimes by 2d. a peck, than in Glasgow and Paisley; and all other kinds of provisions are in the same proportion.

Roads and Bridges.—There are 4 turnpike roads in the parish. These were originally made and kept in repair by the statute labour. This was exacted formerly in kind; but, for more than 20 years, it has, by an act of parliament, been converted into money. Every farm, whether in tillage or in grass, pays at the rate of 3d. Sterling for every pound Scotch of valued rent; and every householder, who does not occupy land to the amount of 12l. Scotch of valued rent, pays 3s. Sterling yearly. Such poor families as produce a certificate to the collector, from the minister, of their inability to pay this tax, are exempted from payment. The average annual amount of the money levied for statute labour is 99l. This sum being sufficient for making the roads, and keeping them in proper repair, there is no toll levied, nor any toll-bar erected in the parish. Unfortunately, the 4 roads are almost in the very extremities of the W. and S. W. parts of the parish.

* On the 19th of September 1790, there was a very remarkable inundation. The river rose 4 feet higher, than ever it was known to have done at any former period. This flood did great damage to the growing corns, and carried into the sea great quantities of such as were cut down. The town lies on both sides of the river; and the lower parts of it were laid almost quite under water. As this inundation happened in the night, many of the inhabitants were in the greatest danger, and had just time to escape with their lives.

ish. The other roads, not included in the present act of parliament, are totally neglected, and are next to impassable for more than three fourths of the year. One of them, leading from the town to the very eastern boundary of the parish, and nearly through the very middle of it, is about 6 English miles long. This line of road, the very worst, perhaps, in the whole county, is essentially necessary to every agricultural improvement in the parish; and, if made, would open a communication between this part of the country and Glasgow, several miles nearer than the present line by Irvine and Stewarton. It is, therefore, most earnestly requested, that when a new county road bill, is applied for, this road may be particularly included in it.

Birds, Plants, Woods and Soil.—The migratory birds are the cuckoo, the wood-cock, the bulfinch, and the green and gray plover.—There is no curious plant to be found here. The greater part of the parish being cultivated, no rare indigenous plants are to be met with, except a few of the *Cryptogamia* of Linnæus.—There are no natural woods in the parish. Besides the very extensive plantations, the property of Lord Eglintoune, there are several other plantations in different parts of the parish, and some very fine full-grown old trees of ash, plane, beech and elm. The weather on the whole of this west coast is often very variable. There are frequently very quick transitions from heat to cold, from frost to rain. These transitions, attended sometimes with violent S. W. and W. winds, are hurtful to vegetation. Trees, in general, and especially all such trees as are of the resinous kinds, suffer very much from them.—About one half of the parish is a stiff, wet, clay soil, and the other a light sand and loam.

Rent,

Rents, Agriculture, &c. †—The average rent of the farms, per acre, is 18s. The whole of the parish is inclosed with hedge and ditch. Such of the hedges as are

† By way of contrast to the present improved state of the parish, it may not be improper to insert the *rent, mode of cultivation, prices of provisions, &c. &c.* that took place about 50 years ago. In the year 1742, the average rent of an acre was 3s. The parish was then wholly uninclosed, excepting an inclosure or two about Eglintoune Castle. The farmers plowed with 4, and sometimes with 6 horses, and 3 men. The business of the third man, it was pretended, would keep the plough steady, and prevent its starting aside, or going out of the straight line. The ridges were excessively broad, and raised very high in the middle. Nearly two thirds of every ridge were left, in a great measure, without any of the soil, and even the very little that remained being, during the winter, almost covered with water, was soured, and consequently in a state that produced very little, either of grass or grain. Every farm was considered as divided into *OUTFIELD* and *INFIELD*, or, as this last was called, *the croft*. The infield, or the croft, was in proportion to the size of the farm, from 6 to 16 acres. It was kept constantly in tillage. The *course of crops* was, 1st, bear; 2d, pease and beans; 3d, oats; then dunged for bear. The outfield was never manured. It was divided into two parts, croft with oats 2 years, and pastured 2. This was the general practice. There were some who croft it 2 years, and pastured 3. Produce from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 county bolls. This produce did little more, (if so much), than to defray the expences of seed and labour. There was no sown grass; consequently no hay, except in some few farms, a little coarse meadow hay. From this slovenly and absurd mode of management, the pasture was extremely scanty, and of a very poor quality. There were no carts. The produce of the farm was brought to market in sacks on horseback. The dung was carried to the croft in small creels on horseback, or in sledges. Though the soil was wet, and entirely without any shelter, every farm kept a certain number of sheep. The number varied according to the extent of the farm. They were constantly housed at night. The wool they produced was coarse, and in very small quantities. There were very few milk cows. From their ignorance of a dairy, the profits the farmers made of the few cows they kept, were extremely inconsiderable. Skimm'd milk cheese was the only kind they knew how to make. The little sweet milk cheese which was then used, was imported from Ireland. Lime was very little known, and still less used as a manure. There were no potatoes planted, except perhaps a very few in a garden, or in the corner of a field.

are kept clean, and otherwise properly attended to, thrive extremely well, and become, in a few years, a very strong fence. On some farms, trees are planted in the hedges. It is much to be regretted, that this mode of inclosing was not more generally practised. These hedge rows, besides the warmth and shelter which they afford, embellish and enrich, to a very great degree, the whole face of the country. Whatever reluctance and aversion, from ignorance or prejudice, the farmers might, at first, discover to inclosing, they now feel and acknowledge its advantages, and consequently are universally fond of it. Disregarding the former absurd division into *outfield* and *infield*, or croft, farms are now divided into 3 or 4 inclosures, as nearly equal as possibly can be done. Such farms as are divided into 3 inclosures, or, as they are commonly called, *breaks*, the tenant, by his lease, is bound, under a certain stipulated penalty, to plow one only of these at a time; to crop 3 years, and pasture 5. The 4th year it is cut for hay. The principal crop is oats. He sows between 6 and 7 bushels an acre: Reaps, at a medium, from 5 to 6 bolls. On a clay soil, or a rich loam, beans are sown, at the rate of between 5 and 6 bushels an acre. The average produce is 7 bolls, 5 bushels to the boll. Four bushels bear produce 5 bolls, 8 bushels to the boll. There is however very little bear now sown, and no wheat nor barley, and but few beans. The almost universal crop in the parish is oats. Some time in the month of August it is limed on the sward; and, about a fortnight or three weeks before plowing, whatever dung the farmers have, is laid out, and spread over the lime. The price of lime at the draw-kill, is from 4½d. to 5d. a bushel. The ground is sown down the 3d year with rye-grass and clover, at the rate of 3 bushels rye-grass an acre, and from 6 lb. to 10 lb. red and white clover. The produce is from 150 to 200 stones, 24 English lbs. to the stone. Farms,
divided

divided into 4 inclosures, are managed precisely in the same way; with this only difference, that every inclosure rests 9 years instead of 6.—The Scotch plough, of the lightest and best kind, is generally used; and it is drawn by 3, and sometimes by 4 horses, with a man and a boy. The price of the plough is from 25s. to 30s. When the season happens to be uncommonly dry, oats and beans begin to be sown about the middle of March; but, in general, very little is sown before the month of April. Bar continues to be sown, from about the beginning to the latter end of May. There is no general harvest till about the first, and sometimes the second week of September. It is mostly over about the latter end of October. By far the greatest part of the hay and harvest work is done by women, at from 1s. to 15d. a day, without victuals. When hired till the whole of the grain is cut down, which is the more general practice, they have from 25s. to 30s., with board.

Failure of the Crop in 1782.—Different causes, no doubt, contributed to this failure, in different parts of the country: But in this parish, and in others immediately on the sea coast, the chief cause of its failure was owing to a very severe west wind, about the middle, or towards the latter end of the month of August, which continued with the utmost violence for a considerable time. The corns had their roots loosened, and were otherwise much damaged by this storm. From being in general very green, when it happened, in a few days afterwards they grew white, but never filled. Snow also, in such parts of the parish as were at the greatest distance from the sea, fell earlier, and in greater quantities, than ever had been known at that season of the year. A boll of well ripened oats yields, at an average, from 17 to 20 pecks of meal, and even, sometimes, more: But, in 1782, the boll of oats,

of 16 pecks, yielded only from 10 to 12 pecks of meal. The price of the peck of meal that year, was from 14d. to 18d. The parish produces grain almost equal to the consumption of its inhabitants, though more than one third of it be in pasture.

Pasturage, &c.—In a wet clay soil, it generally takes 3 acres to feed a milk cow; but, in a light dry soil, $1\frac{1}{2}$, or at most 2 acres, are sufficient. The weight of a milk cow is from 16 to 20 stones; the average produce from 4l. to 5l. For grass to a horse, 50s.; for ditto to a milk cow, from 30s. to 40s. There is a great quantity of sweet milk cheese made in the parish, and of the very best quality; for which there is a constant demand in Glasgow and Paisley, and of late in Edinburgh. Every farmer has one, or more, one-horse carts, worth from 5l. to 8l.

Potatoe Husbandry, &c.—Potatoes are raised by horse-hoeing, and are planted at the distance of 3 feet between the rows, and 6 inches from plant to plant in the rows. The ground is dunged at the rate of from 50 to 70 carts an acre. It gets 5 plowings; the 2 first with 3 horses, and the other 3 with 2 and 1 horse. The planting and raising costs from 8s. to 10s. The potatoes are commonly raised with the spade, instead of the plough, owing to the heavy rains, which generally set in at the time they are raised. The produce is from 30 bolls an acre, and upwards; the average price 6d. a peck. A potatoe crop is reckoned an excellent fallow for oats or bear. Lord Eglintoune has, under his own management, a very extensive farm, the greater part of which is of a light sandy soil. The high broad ridges are now reduced to low ridges, of 8 feet each. One year before it is broken up, it is limed on the sward, at the rate of from 80 to 150 bolls an acre. The
rotation

rotation of crops is, the 2 first years oats, ; the 3d, a fallow, or a horse-hoed crop of potatoes and turnips. This crop is dunged, at the rate of 60 carts an acre. The 4th year barley, and sometimes oats. It is then laid down with natural grass seeds, and clover and rye-grass, and allowed to rest from 3 to 10 years. The produce is from 6 to 10 bolls an acre. Composts of dung, earth and lime are spread on the field in the 2d and 3d years after it has been laid down. Cattle, fed on the farm, clear from 20s. to 30s. an acre.—There are now only 3 malt kilns.

Prices of Provisions.—The average price of oatmeal, for these last 20 years, has been 11½d. a peck; beef, per pound, 4½d.; veal, 4d.; lamb, 3d.; pork, from 4½d. to 5d.; sweet milk cheese, from 5½d. to 6d.; skimm'd milk ditto, from 2½d. to 4d.; butter, 9½d.; eggs, per dozen, from 4d. to 6d.; a hen, from 1s. to 1s. 4d.; a duck, from 9d. to 1s. 1d.; candles, per pound, 16 ounces, 7½d.; hard soap, 8d.; soft ditto, 6d.; a pair of shoes, 6s. For the present prices of labour, see the table of professions, &c. pages 160 and 161.

U 2

Manner

* From the very imperfect state of agriculture in 1742, and for several years afterwards, the price of oatmeal was variable and uncertain. It was sometimes as high as 18d. a peck, and again so very low as 5d. a peck. The prices of butter, and other provisions, per lb. (24 English ounces to the lb.), were butter 3d.; beef, from 1¼d. to 1¾d.; veal, 2d.; lamb, 1½d.; mutton, 1½d.; skimm'd milk cheese, 1¼d.; candles, 16 ounce to the lb, 4d; hard soap, 4d.; soft ditto, 3d.; eggs, a dozen, 1d.; a hen, from 3d. to 4d.; a duck, 4d.; a pair of shoes, from 2s. to 2s. 6d.; a load of coals, (8 loads in the ton), 6d.; bear, per boll, (8 Winchester bushels per boll), from 9s. to 10s.; malt ditto, from 10s. to 13s. 4d. The wages of a male farm servant were from 35s. to 40s. per an n. of a female ditto, from 26s. to 30s. Domestic female servants had the same wages. There were no domestic male servants, except such as were in livery. The wages of a day labourer were 3½d. or 4d. with his maintenance; and 8d. without it.

Manner of Living, &c.—It is to be observed, that, notwithstanding the very great rise of rents, and of servants wages, the farmers live much more comfortably, and make a more decent and respectable appearance, than they did 50 years ago*. Their rents are more regularly and punctually paid, and there are fewer bankruptcies, or failures among them. There is, however, a still greater, and more striking difference, in the dress and manner of living of the tradesmen, than of the farmers. A good deal of English broad cloth is worn by the men; and both mistresses and servant-maids, (for in point of dress there is little difference between them), have their silk cloaks and bonnets, their muslin and calico gowns; their ribbons and flounced petticoats, with cotton and thread stockings. Tradesmen do not live nearly so much on oatmeal as they did in 1742. There is scarcely one of their families in which tea, with wheaten bread, is not used for breakfast; and very few that do not drink it in the afternoon. Farmers, tradesmen, and day-labourers, live a good deal on butcher meat, with potatoes. In 1792, upwards of 200 fatted cows were made use of, besides veal, lamb, and pork.

Leases.

* In 1742, the men wore strong coarse cloth; the greater part, if not the whole, of which was spun in their own families, and woven and dressed in the parish. Knit woollen stockings were then only beginning to be used by a few of the men. Plaiding hose were still the general wear. There were no hats; bonnets were universally in use.—The wives of some of the more wealthy and substantial farmers, and tradesmen, had silk plaids; but by far the greater part of the married women, red or striped worsted ones. Young women wore woollen cloaks, with hoods of the same kind of cloth. This cloth was of home manufacture. They had no buckles in their shoes; these were tied with a piece of red or blue tape. The women in general, and particularly the younger part of them, seldom put on shoes and stockings, excepting to the church, or to a fair or market. Their head-dress was extremely plain and simple.—They lived chiefly on oatmeal and milk, or butter and skimmed milk cheese. Butcher meat was

Leases.—The leases are commonly of 19 or 21 years endurance. These short leases are a very great discouragement to the industry of the farmer, and consequently highly injurious to the interest both of the proprietor and the tenant. With such a short lease he will make no new experiments; he will not even proceed with spirit and animation, in the common beaten tract of husbandry practised by his neighbours, or imposed on him by the terms of his lease. Or should he, at the commencement of it, make any uncommon exertions, he very soon becomes dispirited, if not careless and remiss. The thought of the shortness of his lease forces itself upon his mind, almost incessantly; and he is scarcely entered on possession, when he thinks he sees the end of it. He has a young increasing family of children. They are unable to assist him: He is necessarily obliged to hire servants, at very high wages. The education of his children, the board and wages of his servants, and other unavoidable expences, embarrass him to such a degree, that, with all his industry and attention, he can with the utmost difficulty pay his rent. After 12 or 14 years, his prospects begin to brighten. The oldest of his children are now of some use to him, in the cultivation of his farm. He knows, from experience, the different soils that are in his farm, and the different kinds of grain that are best adapted to these soils. In a very few years he will have it in his power to dismiss all his servants, and to work his farm with

was seldom used by the farmers, except in seed-time and harvest; and very little of it, at any time, by tradesmen and day labourers. About the beginning of November, a few small Highland cows were brought from the islands of Arran and Bute, and sold at from 13s. 4d. to 20s. One of these was divided among three or more families. Such farmers as were reckoned in very opulent circumstances, sometimes killed a cow in November, which had given milk till the beginning of August. There were only 4 tea kettles in the parish in 1742. There was not one in it before 1709.

with the assistance of his children. But, amidst these flattering prospects, his lease is at an end. With his family, he must remove he knows not whither, and leave the fruits of his laborious and painful industry to another; a stranger, perhaps, or even an enemy, who has long envied him. While such is the state of leases, can the country be cultivated with spirit and effect? To accomplish this, the farmer must have something like the idea of property in his possession, or, at least, the highest degree of probability of transmitting it to his children. To render this equally advantageous to the landlord and to the tenant, the form of a lease, proposed in his book on husbandry, by the very ingenious, learned, and patriotic Lord KAMES, seems to be more effectual, than any other hitherto offered to the public*.

Horses.—There is a very excellent breed of large, strong, handsome horses. They are brought from Lanarkshire when about a year old. The average price is 12l. After being kept for 4 or 5 years, they are sold, from 25l. to 40l., for the draught or carriage.

Population.—The return made to Dr. Webster, in 1755, of

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* As this book is not in the hands of a great many, and as it is read, perhaps, but by few, his Lordship's form of a lease is here copied. "In order to
 " excite the industry of the tenant, at the end of the lease, he shall be entitled
 " to a renewal of it, upon paying the proprietor a fifth part more of rent, unless the proprietor give him ten years purchase of that fifth part. For example; the rent is 100l.; the tenant offers 120l.: He shall therefore continue
 " in the possession another 19 years, at the advanced rent, unless the landlord
 " pay him 200l. Should the tenant offer a still higher additional rent, the proprietor cannot turn him out, unless he pay him ten years purchase of that
 " offer."

of the population of this parish, was	-	2541 Souls.
From a late enumeration there are, in the		
country part of the parish,	-	1100
And in the town,	-	1260
		} 2360
Decrease,	-	181

These are all of the establishment, except 222 Antiburgher Seceders, a few families of Burghers, and an equally small number of the Relief persuasion. There are no Episcopalians nor Roman Catholics. From the most unquestionable tradition, it appears, that, about 50 years ago, the country parish was considerably more populous than it is now. The causes of this decrease in the population seem to be the three following:—1st, The union of two or more small farms into one large farm. This has happened in not a few instances. 2^{dly}, The barony of Eglintoune, formerly one of the most populous quarters or divisions of the parish, is inclosed and farmed by Lord EGLINTOUNE, and inhabited only by a very few families of his Lordship's servants. 3^{dly}, The almost total want of cottagers. Every farm had formerly one or two, or more of these families upon it. The cottages are now, in a great measure, demolished; and this numerous and industrious class of people has been under the necessity of removing to Irvine, and to the other towns in the neighbourhood. From the want of trade and manufactures, very few of them settled in Kilwinning. Owing to the rapid progress of manufactures, however, the population in the town has, for some years past, been on the increase. From the spirit of industry and enterprise universally spread through the country, there is every degree of probability, that these will make a still more successful and extensive progress; and that the population will proportionably increase.

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The following table exhibits a view of the present number of the different artists, their journeymen and apprentices, their rates of wages, &c.

Professions.	Mas.	Jour.	Appren.	Total.	Wages per day.	
					s. d.	s. d.
Weavers of customary work,				31	from	0 8 to 0 10
——— silk gauzes,				56	——	1 6 to 2 6
——— muslins,				146	——	1 6 to 2 6
In all,	67	104	62	233		
Tambourers*,				24	——	0 9 to 1 0
Seamstresses*,				7	——	0 6 to 0 9
Smiths,	7	3	2	12	——	1 6
Shoemakers,	4	1	1	6		1 4
Masons,	5	2	2	9	——	1 8 to 2 0
Tailors,	8	2	0	10	10d. with vict.	
Coopers,	2	1	0	3		1 6
House carpenters,	11	6	7	24		1 6
Mill-wrights,	1	1	2	4		1 8
Wheel-wrights,	1	0	1	2		
Butchers,	3	0	0	3		
Bakers,	2	0	0	2		
Surgeon,	1	0	0	1		
Writers,	1	0	1	2		
Slater,	1	0	0	1		
Barber,	1	0	0	1		
Dyer,	1	0	0	1		
Tanners,	2	0	0	2		
Chandlers,	2	0	0	2		
Clockmaker,	1	0	0	1		

Keepers

** Women, and girls from 7 years old, are employed in tambouring muslins. The others flower muslins with the needle. The gauzes and muslins are sent here, for that purpose, by the manufacturers of Glasgow and Paisley.

Keepers of public houses in the town *,	-	-	-	-	-	13
Shopkeepers, grocers, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	11
Shipmasters 3, seamen 11 †,	-	-	-	-	-	14
Soldiers in the army †,	-	-	-	-	-	12
Carriers to Glasgow and Paisley,	-	-	-	-	-	2
Carters, chiefly employed in bringing coals to the town,	-	-	-	-	-	9
Day labourers,	-	-	-	37,	from 1s. to 1s. 6d. a day	
Male farm servants, per annum,	-	-	-	-	from 10l. to 12l.	
Female ditto,	-	-	-	-	— 4l. to 6l.	
Domestic ditto,	-	-	-	-	- 3l. 10s.	

A List of BIRTHS, DEATHS, and MARRIAGES, for the last eight years; extracted from the parish register.

Years.	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.			MARRI- AGES.
	Males.	Femal.	Total.	Males.	Femal.	Total.	
1785	28	30	58	12	10	22	21
1786	36	30	66	9	15	24	17
1787	24	26	50	20	19	39	19
1788	34	34	68	21	18	39	21
1789	31	33	64	14	13	27	12
1790	36	23	59	20	22	42	13
1791	23	27	50	21	23	44	15
1792	39	35	74	20	16	36	21
Total. -	251	238	489	137	136	273	139
Ann. Aver.	31 $\frac{3}{8}$	29 $\frac{6}{8}$	61 $\frac{1}{8}$	17 $\frac{1}{8}$	17	34 $\frac{1}{8}$	17 $\frac{3}{8}$

Manufactures.—One manufacturer employs 9 looms, in weaving lawns, and linen gauzes, for the Irish market. There is

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* There are none in the country parish: Those in the town are by far too many for the number of inhabitants, and are but too often nurseries of idleness and vice. Whisky is what they chiefly drink. From its cheapness, the dissipated and profligate indulge themselves in it to excess, to the hurt, and frequently the ruin of their families. Were government to raise the duties on *whisky*, and lower them on *ale*, this, in all probability, would increase the revenue, and tend most effectually to promote the industry, the health, and the morals of the people.

†† During the last war there were in the navy 13, and in the army 5, from this parish.

is a tannery lately erected, which carries on a good deal of business. This last year, the company bought 400 hides. Within these 3 years, 2 houses have been erected for spinning cotton, with common and mule jennies; also a cotton mill, on a small scale, for carding the cotton. In these 2 houses there are 12 mule jennies, and 16 common ones. The persons employed, are

	Men.	Women.	Boys & Girls.	Total.
	20	11	30	61
Who earn from	- - 1s. 8d. to 2s.	10d. to 1s.	6d. to 10d.	

None of the yarn is manufactured here into cloth. It is sold in Glasgow and Paisley. As long as this is the case, the cotton manufacture can never be carried on to any extent. Though a large capital be no doubt necessary, for bringing cotton goods of all kinds into the market, it is not, however, so much the want of a capital, as of a market, that prevents the manufacturers in this place, and on the whole of this west coast, from manufacturing their own cotton yarn. The readiest, and, every thing considered, perhaps the most advantageous market for this west country, would be Ireland. But so very high are the Irish duties on Scotch muslins, and on every kind of Scotch goods, in which there is so much as a single thread of cotton yarn, as amounts to a total prohibition of carrying these goods to the Irish market. This gives the greatest encouragement to smuggling, and has also made several very considerable cotton manufacturers leave Glasgow, and other places in its neighbourhood, and settle in Ireland. At the same time, it is not a little surprising, that Irish linens are brought into Scotland duty free. Does not this discover an undue partiality in favour of that kingdom? It is thought, that no less than 100,000*l.* worth of Scotch muslins, and other Scotch cotton goods, would be annually sold in the Irish market, were

were it not for these excessively high duties. An object of such importance to the commercial interest of Scotland, merits the most serious attention of the British parliament. Should the Irish, upon an accurate and fair statement of the matter, refuse to lower the duties on Scotch cotton goods, it is humbly submitted, how far it would not become the wisdom and justice of the British parliament, to lay a proportionable duty on all Irish linens brought into Scotland.

Flax and Mills.—From 12 to 14 hogheads of *flax seeds* are sown annually. The flax is spun and manufactured for the various family uses of the inhabitants. A very small quantity of it only is made into a coarse kind of cloth, called *barn*, which is brought to market, and sold for shirts to the lower classes of the people. There is a flax mill, at which 137 stones of flax are dressed annually; besides a *waulk* or fulling mill; 4 for grinding corn, 1 for wheat, and 2 for barley*.

Tbirlage.—A great part of the parish is thirled to the Kilwinning mill, called the *Abbey Mill*, and to the *Mill of Seven Acres*, the property of Lord Eglintoune. Some farms pay an excessively high multure, no less than the 12th peck. This servitude is evidently a very great hindrance to improvement. It makes the millers more negligent than otherwise they would be. They know that the corns of such lands as are thirled must be brought to them, in whatever careless, or even fraudulent a manner, they may justly be suspected of hav-

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* Fifty years ago there were no barley mills. Instead of these, almost every family had a pretty large stone, called a mortar stone. This stone was hollowed by a mason to what was reckoned a proper depth. Into it was put as much bear or barley as could be easily wrought. A little water was thrown upon it, to make it part with the husks. It was then beat with a large wooden *mell*, or mallet, till it was fit to be used for making broth.

ing done their duty. Small proprietors, therefore, ought certainly to purchase their thirlage, at almost any price; and proprietors of mills ought to free their own lands of this burden, and lay an additional rent on their tenants, equal to what is paid by the mill to which they are bound. Thirlage being once abolished, and farmers at liberty to go where they pleased with their corns, mills would be erected in the most convenient parts of parishes, grain of course would be better ground, and at a much lower rate, and a great deal of time and labour would be saved to the farmer.

Fuel.—The mosses in the parish are, the *Moss Mulloch*, the *Auchenmode* and *Auchentyber Mosses*. This last moss is supposed to contain more than 200 acres. In some parts of it, it is very deep, no less than from 12 to 16 feet. It produces very good peats. When the summer is dry, these make excellent firing, and are used as such by the neighbouring farmers. But the usual and common fuel of the inhabitants is coals. In no parish, perhaps, in Scotland, is there coal in greater plenty, or of a better quality, than in this parish. Very lately, however, the price of coals has been raised excessively high. A load of coals, 8 loads to the ton, which, 50 years ago, cost from 3d. to 4d. at the coal pit, is now 8d.; and the probability, at present, is, that it will be advanced to a still higher price. This scarcity and dearth of coals is owing entirely to their not being wrought. Not to mention the inhumanity of such a conduct to the destitute poor, proprietors of coals certainly mistake their own interest, in suffering them to remain unwrought. An additional rise on coal, is to them, when properly considered, a very trifling object, compared with the rise of the rents of their lands; and this can be effected only by the improvements in agriculture, and the increase of trade and manufactures. But it is a fact universally acknowledged,

acknowledged, that few, if any, real improvements in agriculture can be made, and that trade and manufactures cannot be extended to any great and permanent degree, without cheap fuel. Influenced, then, by a sense of their own interest, let proprietors immediately work their own coals, and, at the same time, lower the price of them. This will induce farmers, manufacturers and tradesmen, to leave those places in which firing is scarce and dear, and settle in this parish.

Poor.—There are at present on the poor's roll 36 persons, who receive from 2s. to 5s. per month. Besides these, 2 young men, fatuous, are maintained at the rate of 8s. 8d. a month, each. The annual amount of these pensions is 55l. Distribution is also made, occasionally, to other poor sick persons, not on the pension list; and even to those pensioners, whose circumstances require additional supply, to the average sum, yearly, of 28l. The following is a state of the funds.

The weekly collections, at a medium, amount to	£.	30	0	0	
Mortcloths at funerals,	-	-	6	9	0
Proclamations for marriages,	-	-	1	19	0
Rents of seats in the church,	-	-	3	9	0
Private charities, some years, have amounted to	-	10	0	0	

As these, however, are so liable to be withheld, they cannot be considered as making any part of a permanent fund for the support of the poor.

The interest of 148l. at 5 <i>per cent.</i>	-	-	7	8	0
2 farms*, the property of the poor, bring at present a yearly rent of	-	-	30	2	0
Total,	£.	89	4	0	

There

* One of these farms, called the WOODGREEN, is supposed to contain upwards

There are 3 charitable societies belonging to the parish. When any of their members, from sickness or age, are unable to work, they are regularly, and even liberally supported by these societies. At present, there are only 3 beggars in the parish; but the inhabitants are greatly oppressed with beggars from other parishes, and even with several from Ireland. The number of poor has, of late years, very much increased, and is still on the increase. From the very advanced wages of the manufacturing and labouring people of every description, and from the idleness, the dissipation and profligacy of manners, the usual, and, indeed, the almost inseparable consequences of very high wages, it is next to an absolute certainty, that the poor, in a few years, will increase in a proportion hitherto unknown in Scotland. The common and ordinary funds, particularly in populous manufacturing parishes, will be unable to support them. In these parishes the poor's funds, from many very obvious causes, are, for some years past, greatly diminished. One very general and principal cause of this decrease is, that MEN of RANK and FORTUNE are very irregular, and even *criminally* negligent, in their attendance upon divine service on the Sabbath. This conduct, however fashionable, is not only disrespectful to religion, disgraceful

wards of 80 acres, all arable, of an excellent improveable soil, and lying within a quarter of a mile of the town. Were it out of lease, it would bring, at least, a yearly rent of 80*l.* to the poor. In 1743, the immediate predecessor of the present incumbent let it for the very long period of 76 years, at the extremely low rent of 12*l.* The tenant also pays 2 bolls and 6 pecks of meal yearly to the parish minister, and the half of the cess and schoolmaster's salary. This very extraordinary length of a lease was thought, by many, to be beyond the powers of the minister and session to grant. By the advice of a lawyer, of the very first character for professional knowledge and abilities, the present incumbent, with the concurrence of the session and principal heritors, commenced a process of reduction before the Court of Session. The Court, however, gave a *definitive sentence against the poor*, and in favour of the tenant.

graceful to the laws of their country, and pernicious in the highest degree to the morals of the people at large, but must eventually bring, upon *themselves*, assessments, or *poor's rates*. Of all the taxes imposed on the people of England, this is one of the most oppressive, and ruinous to the prosperity and improvement of their country. In England, the poor's rates are rapidly increasing to the enormous sum of THREE MILLIONS STERLING yearly! An evil of such magnitude ought most anxiously to be guarded against, and, if possible, to be prevented by every class of men in Scotland, and, in particular, by the landed interest. To render this tax unnecessary, or, at all events, to lessen it, should it be found impossible to be altogether prevented, every man of property, once a year, or oftener if necessary, ought regularly to send the amount of his weekly charity to his own parish church; and to every other parish, a sum proportioned to the property he holds in that parish.

Ecclesiastical State.—There is at present but one clergyman, the minister of the Established Church. An Antiburgher minister, ordained in 1762, died about 3 months ago. The stipend was augmented in 1786. The living is now worth 140l., besides a glebe of between 4 and 5 acres, and a very excellent manse, built in 1773. The church is a very beautiful structure, built partly in the ancient Gothic taste, to correspond to the venerable ruins of the monastery. But though it be almost 20 years since it was built, it has never been seated. This has been owing to an unhappy difference of opinion among the heritors about the division of the area of the church, and which is still unsettled. The Earl of EGLINTOUNE is patron of the parish.

Schools.—The salary of the parish schoolmaster is 9l. 9s. This, with the school fees and other emoluments, makes the office of schoolmaster worth about 25l. a year. There is a school-house, but no house for the schoolmaster. English, writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping, with the Latin, Greek, and French languages, are taught in the parish school. There are also 2 other schools in the town, and 2 in the country part of the parish, intended chiefly for teaching English and writing. The education of youth is indisputably of the very utmost importance to the religious and civil interests of society. No class of men, therefore, can be of more (if indeed of equal) consequence and utility, than parish schoolmasters. But, to the disgrace of an enlightened and liberal age, these men have been most amazingly neglected. Their salaries, when originally fixed in Scotland, bore a reasonable proportion to the value of money, and to the price of labour and provisions. Even then, however, it was only by the greatest attention, and the most rigid economy, that they were enabled to live with any kind of decency, and secure that degree of respect so absolutely necessary to their usefulness. For many years after that period, parish schools were filled with men highly respectable for their exemplary lives, and for their superior parts and learning. Hence that taste for literature, that general knowledge, for which the Scotch were so deservedly celebrated, whilst the great mass of the people of the other nations of Europe were sunk in the most savage ignorance. Since that time, the mode of living is entirely changed. Every article of dress, provisions and household furniture is risen to a degree almost incredible; and a shilling, in real value, is worth little more than a penny was then. For these reasons, the salaries of the judges in Scotland, and the livings of the greater part of the clergy, have been considerably increased; but no addition whatever has been made to the salaries

laries of parish schoolmasters. A common tradesman, or day labourer, if sober and industrious, will earn a great deal more than the generality of schoolmasters can possibly do. Is it to be imagined, that a man having any thing like a liberal education, and, in other respects, of an unblemished character, will engage in an office, the duties of which are so extremely laborious, for the miserably narrow, scanty pittance at present annexed to it? Should trade and commerce make the same rapid and extensive progress, which of late they have done, parish schools, it is to be feared, will be filled with persons wretchedly ignorant, or of grossly indecent and immoral lives. The consequences of this, to the rising generation, are too painful to be dwelt upon. Some evils, in order to be redressed, need only to be mentioned. A sense of duty, and genuine patriotism, it is hoped, will strongly and effectually impel parents, and the friends of humanity and virtue, to unite in applying to the legislature, to make a far more decent and comfortable provision for parish schoolmasters, than is done at present.

Monastery.—This monastery was founded in the year 1140, by HUGH DE MOREVILLE, a very opulent and powerful baron, Lord of Cunninghame, and Lord High Constable of Scotland. It was dedicated to *St. Winning*. The monks were brought from Kelso*.—In 1560, ALEXANDER Earl of GLENCAIRN, VOL. XI. Y one

*They were called *Tyronenses*, from Tyron, in the diocese chartres. There, ROTROUS, Earl of *Perche* and *Mortagne*, gave a settlement to St. BERNARD, their first abbot. From him they, as well as the *Cisterians*, were called BERNARDINES. They followed the rule of St. BENEDICT, or Bennet, but reformed and enlarged by St. Bernard. King ROBERT I. gave to this monastery the lands of Halland *juxta burgum de Irvine*; as also *viginti solidos, quos annuatim de terra sua de Kilmernoch hereditibus de Baliolo reddere solebant*. JOHANNES de MENETHETH DOMINUS de ARRAN et de KNAPDALE, grants to the monks of this abbey *jus patronatus*

one of the most distinguished and active promoters of the Reformation, in consequence of an order from the States of Scotland, in a great measure demolished this venerable and magnificent monastery *. The only entire ruins of the abbey, now remaining, are a steeple and gable. These were lately repaired, at a very considerable expence, by the present Earl of Eglintoune.

Masonry.—It is the remark of a historian, that from about the beginning to the middle of the 12th century, the worship of

tronatus et advocacionis ecclesiarum Sanctæ Mariæ, et Sanctæ Brigide, insule de Arran, cum suis capellis et terris. The charter is given at Kilwinning, the 12th of October 1357. In the reign of ROBERT III., Sir William Cunningham of Kilmartine, “for the health of his own soul, and for the souls of his ancestors, gave, in pure alms, to the monks of this abbey, the lands of Grange.” In 1558, died JAMES BETHUNE, Archbishop of Glasgow, and Commendator of Kilwinning. He was succeeded, as Abbot of Kilwinning, by GAVIN HAMILTON, the last Popish abbot of this place. Abbot Hamilton was a firm and zealous friend of the Queen Regent, and of her beautiful but unfortunate daughter, Queen MARY; and was employed by them in several very important negotiations. He was killed in the Canongate of Edinburgh, June 28th 1571. In the year 1552, he made HUGH, Earl of EGLINTOUNE, justiciary, chamberlain, and bailie of Kilwinning, and gave him a considerable salary for discharging these offices. This grant was confirmed by the Queen †.

* The above Earl of GLENCAIRN obtained a grant of the abbey, and made his son ALEXANDER commendator of it. To him succeeded WILLIAM MELVILLE, of the family of RAITH. On his resignation, January 5th 1603, Hugh Earl of Eglintoune got a new grant of the abbey, with all the lands, and titles, and patronage of the churches at that time belonging to it, erected into a temporal lordship. At the Reformation, the revenue of the monastery, exclusive of the property lands, amounted to 840l. 3s. 4d. Scotch, 8 bolls of wheat, 14 chalders 1 boll and 15 pecks of bear, 67 chalders of oatmeal, 13 stirks, 140 capons, 100 hens, 268 cheeses, and 9 fathom of a peat stack. According to the traditional account of the entire revenue of the monastery, it is asserted, that its present

† See public records, 21st book, chart. 77.

of God, in Scotland, was, in a great measure, laid aside, or could with the greatest difficulty be performed, on account of the noise of the hammers and trowels, which were employed in erecting monasteries and other religious houses. It was during this period that a number of masons came from the Continent to build this monastery, and with them an architect or master mason, to superintend and carry on the work. This architect resided at Kilwinning; and being *a gude and true* mason, intimately acquainted with all the parts of masonry known on the Continent, was chosen master of the meetings of the brethren all over Scotland. He gave rules for the conduct of the brethren at these meetings, and decided finally in appeals from all the other meetings or lodges in Scotland. From this time, down to the 15th century, very little of masonry can be known, with any degree of certainty; only it is said, that at Kilwinning the head meeting of the brethren was held. King James I. of Scotland, eminently distinguished for his knowledge and taste in polite literature, and in the fine arts, not long after his return from England, patronized the mother lodge of Kilwinning; and presided as grand master, till he settled an annual salary, to be paid by every master mason of Scotland, to a grand master, chosen by the brethren, and approved by the crown. This grand master was to be nobly born, or a clergyman of high rank and character. He had his deputies in the different counties and towns of Scotland. Every new brother paid him a fee at entrance. As

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annual amount would be at least 20,000l. Sterling! This supposition seems to be pretty well founded, from the following number of churches, which are well known to have held of it: Kilwinning, Irvine, Kilmarnock, Loudon, or New Mills, Ardrossan, Kilbirney, Kilbride, Beith, Dunlop, Dreghorn, Dalry, Stevenston, and Stewarton; (all these churches are in Cunninghame); Kilmarnock and Dumbarton, in Dumbartonshire; South and North Knapdale, in the shire of Argyll; and Kilmory and Kilbride, in the Island of Arran.

grand master, he was empowered to regulate and determine every matter in dispute, between the founders and builders of churches and monasteries, and which it would have been improper to have decided by a court of law. King James II. conferred the office of grand master on WILLIAM SINCLAIR, Earl of ORKNEY and Baron of ROSLIN. By another deed of the same king, this office was made hereditary in this very ancient and illustrious family. Earl William, and his successors, barons of Roslin, held their head courts, or, in the style of masonry, assembled their GRAND LODGES, at Kilwinning, as being the mother lodge, or the place where regular and stated lodges had first been held in Scotland. The sobriety and decency of the brethren in all their meetings, the very peculiar and distinguishing union and harmony, in which they lived together, and their humanity and liberality to the sick and indigent, made the mother lodge highly respected in the 16th century. An uncommon spirit for masonry then discovered itself. Laws, founded on the original acts and constitutions of the mother lodge, were renewed, and are still invariably adhered to. This is evident from her records still extant*.

Archery.—It is well known, that in former times, the bow and arrow were used in war throughout the whole of Europe. By one or more of the old acts of the Scotch parliament, the young

* These records contain a succession of grand masters, charters of erection to other lodges, as daughters of the mother lodge, &c. The Earls of Eglington have successively patronized this lodge. Some years ago, the present Earl made a donation to the fraternity of a piece of ground, for building a new and very elegant lodge; and, with many other gentlemen, anxious to preserve the rights of the very ancient and venerable mother lodge, liberally contributed to its erection. There is a common seal, expressive of the antiquity of the mother lodge, and of the emblems of the ancient art of masonry, and by which charters, and all other public deeds of the society, are ratified.

young men in every parish were strictly commanded to practice archery, for an hour or two, *every SUNDAY after divine service*. After the invention of fire arms, archery was laid aside, as no longer useful and necessary in war. Though for this reason it was disused in most other places in Scotland, it has been practised here, as an elegant and manly amusement, almost without any interruption, to the present day. At the same time, the laws and usages of the Company, (the term used for the Society), are known, and that too very imperfectly, only by tradition, prior to the year 1488. This date is acknowledged and rendered authentic, by a minute in the records, dated September 1688. This minute is signed by a number of gentlemen of the most respectable characters. From this time, archery has been practised annually, at a certain stated time of the year, generally in the month of June. What has contributed, perhaps more than any thing, to its continuance, has been the monastery. This supposition is rendered highly probable, from the species of archery in use here from time immemorial. It is of two kinds. The one is a perpendicular mark, called a *poppingoe*. The *poppingoe* is a bird known in heraldry. It is, on this occasion, cut out in wood, fixed in the end of a pole, and placed 120 feet high, on the steeple of the monastery. The archer, who shoots down this mark, is honoured with the title of *Captain of the Poppingoe*. He is master of the ceremonies of the succeeding year, sends cards of invitation to the ladies, gives them a ball and supper, and transmits his honours to posterity by a medal, with suitable devices, appended to a silver arrow. The prize, from 1488 to 1688, was a sash, or, as it was called, a *benn*. This was a piece of taffeta or Persian, of different colours, chiefly red, green, white and blue, and not less in value than 20l. Scotch. This honourable badge was worn by the captain, which he kept, and

and produced another of equal value the following year. At the revival of archery in 1688, there was substituted a piece of plate, which continued to be given by every captain till 1723. The prize was then converted into the present silver arrow. —The other kind of shooting, is for prizes at butts, *point-blank* distance, (about 26 yards.) The prize at butts, is some useful or ornamental piece of plate, given annually to the society by the senior surviving archer.

Eminent Men.—Eglintoune Castle, the seat of the family of Eglintoune for upwards of 400 years, is in the parish. Of the men of this family, eminently remarkable for their patriotism, their loyalty, their high sense of honour, and distinguished abilities in peace and war, the two following only shall be mentioned. At the battle of Otterburn, Sir JOHN MONTGOMERIE, married to the heiress of Eglintoune, and niece to King ROBERT II., had the command of part of the Scotch army under the brave Earl of Douglas; and his personal valour and military conduct contributed not a little to the celebrated victory obtained over the English. The renowned HENRY PERCY, well known by the name of *Hotspur*, and general of the English army, Sir John Montgomerie took prisoner with his own hands, and with his ransom built the castle of Punnoon, in Renfrewshire.—All the valuable improvements in gardening, planting, and agriculture, which, within these 50 years, have been made in the parish, and indeed in the greater part of the county of Ayr, are owing in a great measure to the uncommonly spirited exertions, to the very refined and correct taste, of ALEXANDER, the late Earl of Eglintoune. By minute and accurate inquiry and observation, he made himself acquainted with the state of English agriculture, with the truly noble and generous design of benefiting his native country. Deeply regretting the idleness,
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the laziness and the poverty of the farmers, and the very ignorant and absurd manner in which they cultivated their lands, his Lordship, at a great expence, engaged and brought to his estates in the parish, and other parts of the county, men of real knowledge and experience in agriculture, who had been regularly bred to it, and who had long successfully practised it. By the conversation and example of these practical improvers, the people, roused from their former torpid state, ventured to deviate from the mode of management handed down by their forefathers; and, convinced at last, of the infinitely superior advantages of this new system of husbandry, by degrees adopted it. His Lordship also instituted an *agricultural society*, consisting of the most active, intelligent, and respectable farmers. In this society he presided for several years. By communicating such observations as were the effects of his own experience, and such as he had collected in conversing with men of knowledge, his Lordship excited and diffused a keen and enterprising spirit of industry and experiment; the very happy effects of which, in the improvement and wealth of the country, had little more than appeared, when he died by the hands of an unprincipled and merciless assassin. His Lordship's farm of Eglintoune, with the plantations, contains about 2000 acres Scotch measure. The whole is planned and executed, with such an exquisitely fine taste, as to render the ancient seat of the family, one of the noblest and most beautiful of any in Scotland. To the patriotic exertions of this truly great man, his country chiefly owes the act of parliament, which abolished what was called the *optional clause* of the Scotch banks. By the above clause, the banks had it in their power, to refuse payment of their notes, for no less than *six months* after it had been demanded. This certainly was a very great national grievance, and had it continued, Scotland could never have made the improvements, which it has

has done, in agriculture, in commerce, and in manufactures. Sincere and steady in his friendships, humane and generous, the patron of unfortunate merit, of the most polished and agreeable manners, and possessed of all the more amiable and respectable virtues, the death of the late Earl of Eglintoune will be long and painfully regretted by every good man, by every friend of humanity, and of his country*.

Names of Places.—Not a few of these, it is said, are originally Gaelic; such as, *Auchenmade, Auchentyber, Auchewinsie, Auchensarvie, &c.* Other names are evidently English. Of these, some are descriptive of their particular situations, as *Wood, Wood-side, Wood-end*. Tradition says, that in these places, there was in former times a very extensive wood; but there is not the least vestige of it now remaining. Other names describe their ancient proprietors; as *Smith's-town, Fergus-hill-hall, &c.*

Wet and Cold Summers.—It is in the recollection of many still living, that the summers, in this part of the country at least, are now much more wet and cold than they were 50 years ago. By men of undoubted veracity it is asserted, as an absolutely certain fact, that, at that period, the farmers, in plowing for bear, about the middle of the month of May, were under the necessity of beginning to plow so very early as at 3 o'clock in the morning, and to leave off at 8. The heat, at that hour, became so very intense, that it was impossible for them to continue their work any longer: Nor could they begin again till between 4 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

For

* Cui pudor, et justitiæ soror
Incorrupta fides, nudaque veritas,
Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit.

For a number of years past, quite the reverse has been the case. The month of May, in particular, has been very cold and wet, and unfavourable to vegetation; and, in some years, we have had very little of what may be reckoned *summer weather*. The harvest of course, then, was much earlier than it has been since. In several places in the neighbourhood, it is said, the harvest was finished about the latter end of August. The facts themselves are here barely stated: The physical causes of so very remarkable a change are left to be accounted for by others.

Character of the People.—The people are, in general, very decent, sober, honest and industrious. Owing to the silk and muslin manufactures, several strangers, of late, have settled in the town. What effects these, in time, may have, on the morals of the people, cannot as yet be said. Though the only civil officer in the place be a constable, there are fewer riots committed, than in most other places equally populous and extensive. It is now upwards of 22 years since the present incumbent was ordained, during which time no inhabitant of the parish has been banished, or suffered a capital punishment.

NUMBER XI.

PARISH OF COMRIE.

(County of Perth—Presbytery of Auchterarder—Synod of Perth and Stirling.)

Drawn up by the Rev. Mr. COLIN BAXTER, Minister of Monivaird, from Materials chiefly collected by the Rev. Mr. HUGH M'DIARMID, Minister of Comrie.

Origin of the Name.

THIS parish takes its name from the village of COMRIE, in which the church stands. Comrie is derived from the Gaelic, *Comb-ruidh*, which signifies *the confluence of two rivers*. These are the *Erne*, and the *Ruchil*, which join their streams a few yards to the westward of the church, and flow in one body, till they fall into the Tay. There is another parish, called *Tullicetil*, united to Comrie. The foundation of the church, which is still visible, is surrounded by a pretty large church-yard, and is distant from the village of Comrie about a Scotch mile. *Tullicetil*, in allusion to the dead buried there, signifies in Gaelic, *the plain of sleep*.

Extent.—The extent of this parish is very considerable, being about 13 miles long, and between 9 and 10 broad. It
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consists of the strath, or *flat ground*, from Comrie to Locherthead, and of 4 glens; 2 of them large, *Glenairtney* and *Glenlednaig*; and two small, *Finniglen* and *Glentearkin*. The figure of the parish is irregular.

Situation, Soil, and Surface.—It is situated in the county of Perth, and is the western boundary of Stratherne. The soil, in general, in the low grounds, is light and gravelly, and full of small stones. In some farms, especially in the glens, it is deeper and rather swampy. On the sides of the glens, and of the strath, to the E. end of Locherne, and of the loch itself, there is a continued chain of hills. These hills, which comprehend by far the greatest part of the parish, consist mostly of sheep farms. In the higher parts of the glens, there is little encouragement to plow and sow, as the crops are always late, and often destroyed by the frost and rains.

Climate and Diseases.—The air, in general, is very pure and healthy; but the climate in the strath differs considerably from that in the hilly part of the parish. In the glens, there is a great deal of rain: In the strath, which is pretty broad near the village, they seldom think they have too much. Before the goats were banished from the country, this parish was much resorted to by invalids, from Edinburgh and Glasgow, for the recovery of their health. Most of the inhabitants live to a good old age. There are among them, at present, 8 men and 9 women between 80 and 90 years old, and a great number between 70 and 80. Colds and rheumatisms are the most common complaints. A few have of late been attacked by bilious disorders, especially in summer and harvest. Colics too have sometimes proved fatal, particularly (it is remarked) to those of the name of *Fergusson*. The small pox were formerly very destructive; but, about 7 years ago, the people were prevail-

ed upon to allow their children to be inoculated ; and ever since the practice has been general, and very successful.

Rivers and Lakes.—The principal rivers are the *Erne* and the *Ruchil*. The *Erne* issues from the lake of that name, about 4 miles W. from the village of Comrie. *Ruchil* signifies, in Gaelic, *the red flood* ; and it is so called, from the redness of its waters, when swelled with rains. It takes its rise among the high hills at the head of Glenairtney ; is a fine fishing stream, and remarkable for the great numbers of sea trouts which are to be found in it. These rivers, and the *Lednaig*, the third largest in the parish, abound with burn trouts ; but there are few salmon in any of them, except during the spawning season.—*Loch Erne* is about 8 miles long, and 1 broad. It is called *Erne*, in Gaelic *Erinn*, from its westerly situation. Its banks, for above 5 miles on both sides, are covered with natural oak wood, of great extent and value. The road from Crieff, through the parishes of Monivaird and Comrie, to Loch-Erne head, presents a great variety of natural beautiful objects, and is perhaps not inferior to any of the same extent in the Highlands of Scotland. Loch-Erne is not distinguished as a fishing lake. It is said, that it never freezes. Near each end of it, there is a small island, evidently artificial, on which the remains of a castle are still visible. There are only 2 other small lakes in the parish ; the one above Dunira, the other in the braes of Glenlednaig, both of which swarm with trouts about the size of herrings.

Hills, Woods, and Springs.—This parish has many high hills in it ; but the highest, not only here, but in all Strath-erne, is *Benvurlich*, that is, *the mountain of the great lake* : And Loch-Erne is certainly great, when compared with the
other

other lakes in Stratherne. In a clear day, this mountain is distinctly seen from Perth, from the Castle-hill of Edinburgh, and from a rising ground at Loudon Castle, in Ayrshire. Its elevation above the level of the sea is about 3,200 feet. Besides the oaks on each side of Loch-Erne, above mentioned, there is also an extensive and valuable oak wood on the estates of *Dunira*, *Tullibannachar*, *Comrie*, and *Aberruchil*. A great variety of other trees, particularly of the fir species, have also been planted of late, in several parts of the parish, and are in a very thriving condition.—The only remarkable spring here is that of *St. Fillan* †, the Popish saint of Breadalbane, at the W. end of Stratherne.

Animals.—The number of sheep is about 16,500; of black cattle, 3,820; of horses, 726; of deer, in the forest of Glen-airtney,

* This spring, tradition reports, reared its head on the top of *Dun-Fhaolain*, (*FILLAN'S Hill*), for a long time doing much good; but *in disgust*, (probably at the Reformation!) it removed suddenly to the foot of a rock, a quarter of a mile to the southward, where it still remains, *bumbled* indeed, but not forsaken. It is still visited by valetudinary people, especially on the 1st of May, and the 1st of August. No fewer than 70 persons visited it in May and August 1791. The invalids, whether men, women, or children, walk, or are carried, round the well, three times, in a direction *Deisgal*, that is, from E. to W. according to the course of the Sun. They also drink of the water, and bathe in it. These operations are accounted a certain remedy for various diseases. They are particularly efficacious for curing barrenness; on which account it is frequently visited by those who are very desirous of offspring. All the invalids throw a white stone on the saint's cairn, and leave behind, as tokens of their confidence and gratitude, some rags of linen or woollen cloth. The rock on the summit of the hill, formed, of *itself*, a chair for the saint, which still remains. Those who complain of rheumatism in the back, must ascend the hill, sit in this chair, then lie down on their back, and be pulled by the legs to the bottom of the hill. This operation is still performed, and reckoned very efficacious. At the foot of the hill, there is a basin, made by the saint, on the top of a large stone, which seldom wants water, even in the greatest drought: And all who are distressed with sore eyes must wash them three times with this water.

airtney, between 200 and 300; of goats, about 100. The sheep are of the black faced kind, and on most of the farms are every year improving. The small Highland breed, once very numerous here, is now almost entirely banished. The hill horses too, to make room for the sheep, are reduced to a very small number. The smeared or tarry wool, is sold at from 4s. to 5s. per stone; the white wool at 7s. 6d.—There are in the parish hares, rabbits, foxes, martins, partridges, grouse, and a few ptarmigans and heath fowl.

Produce, &c.—The principal crops are oats and bear. Potatoes are planted every where in great quantities, and, with milk, constitute the principal part of the food of the lower classes, for 8 months of the year. A good deal of meal is bought from the neighbouring parishes of Monivaird, Crieff and Muthil. Those parishes also supply our small whisky stills with about 1200 bolls of barley yearly.

Manufactures.—Our staple manufacture is linen yarn, of which a great quantity is spun and sold every year. With the money which this yarn brings, most of the farmers pay a great part of their rents. This yarn sells at about 2s. 4d. per spindle. From the tow of the lint they spin harn yarn, which is made into cloth, that brings from 9d. to 1s. per yard. The finer sort is used for men and women's shirts; the coarser for sailors jackets and trousers. The women make also a great quantity of plaiden cloth, which is sold at from 10d. to 1s. per yard; and a considerable quantity of tartan, of which they make plaids and hose. These are partly for home use, and partly for the market.

Prices of Labour.—The wages of servants and labourers have risen very much within these 10 years. Day labourers
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get from 10d. to 1s. in summer, and from 7d. to 9d. in winter, when their provisions are not allowed them. When they take work by the piece, and are employed in making roads, in ditching, building stone fences, quarrying lime-stone and slates, they often earn from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per day. The men servants receive from the farmers, from 5l. to 10l. a year; The women servants from 2l. 10s. to 3l. 10s.

Union of Farms. &c.—About a third part of this parish once belonged to the family of PERTH; and when their estate was forfeited, and put under the management of commissioners, several farms, formerly possessed by many tenants, were given to one person. This lessened the number of inhabitants considerably. The village indeed has increased very much of late; but, by comparing what the large farms have lost of tenants and cottagers, with what the village has gained, the population does not appear to be on the increase. A great part of the village is inclosed, especially what belongs to Mr. DRUMMOND of PERTH; and some of the farms are subdivided.

Rents and Proprietors.—The farms on the Perth estate are allowed by all to be low rented; and they are certainly so, when compared with the rest of the country. The highest grass farm pays about 200l.: The rest are from 80l. down to 5l. In the neighbourhood of the village, the land lets at from 1l. to 1l. 12l. per acre.—The valued rent of the parish is 4133l. 6s. 8d. Scotch: The real rent, though many of the best farms are let very low, is about 2670l. Sterling. One cutting of the oak woods in the parish will yield about 13,000l. There are 10 greater, and 6 smaller proprietors. None of the greater reside constantly in the parish, but almost all of them visit it annually; and 3 of the greatest reside in the

the neighbourhood, at least for half the year. Five of the smaller heritors reside constantly.

Population.—The population of this parish is not thought to be increasing, although, within these 40 years, it has augmented considerably. The number of inhabitants, of all ages, amounts to about - - - - - 3000

The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was only - 2546

Hence there is evidently an increase of - 454

When the number of arable acres, the infant state of trade and manufactures, with the scarcity and high price of fuel, are considered, this part of Stratherne is sufficiently populous. Many boys and girls are employed as herds, and many young men and women, as servants, every year, in the neighbouring Lowland parishes. Were a coarse woollen manufactory established at Comrie, it would meet with encouragement, do much good, and employ many half idle hands. For 8 years past, none have emigrated from the parish, but 6 cottagers, with their families, to Blair-Drummond Moss, in Monteith.

Ecclesiastical State.—The present incumbent, Mr. HUGH M'DIARMED was admitted minister of Comrie in July 1784. The church is old, too small, and not in very good repair. There is another church, 4 miles west from the village, in which divine service is performed, almost wholly in Gaelic, every fourth Sunday. The manse and offices were built in 1784. The glebe consists of near 9 acres, 6 of which are pretty good; the others are very poor. The stipend is, in money, 52l. 2s. 3d.; and, in grain, 16 bolls of meal, and 8 bolls of bear; in all, about 69l.; and in this sum is included what is allowed for communion elements. There is a small meeting of Antiburgher Seceders in the village; and there are 6 Pa-
pists

pists, who attend the Roman Catholic chapel in the neighbouring parish of Muthil, in which, as well as in Crieff, many of them reside.

Schools.—Besides the parochial school, at which are taught from 70 to 100 scholars, there are 3 others, supported by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge; one of which has often, during the winter season, 100; the other 2 from 50 to 60 scholars. In the remote parts of the parish, there are 2 or 3 small schools, supported by the tenants, whose children derive benefit from them.

Poor.—The number of poor on the parish roll is 12. Some of these receive a weekly, and some only an occasional supply. The weekly pensioners receive 6d. or 1s.; the occasional ones 2s. or 3s. three or four times in the year; and, at Martinmas and Candlemas, even the weekly pensioners receive 2s. or 2s. 6d. each. The annual sum expended for their relief is about 40l. This sum is produced by the collections in the church, by proclamations, and mortcloth dues, by fines for irregular marriages, and other trespasses, and the interest of 100l. The poor are permitted to beg in the parish. Some poor house-keepers beg for corn in spring; and many poor house-wives beg for wool in summer.

Roads and Bridges.—There is one great road through the parish, leading from Crieff to Loch-Erne head; and several smaller roads through the glens. Between Crieff and Loch-Erne there are 5 stone bridges across the river Erne, 3 of which consist of 4 arches. There are besides several stone and wooden bridges on the Ruchil, the Lednaig, &c. The roads in this and the neighbouring parishes were formerly made by the statute labour; but this was lately converted into money.

Tenants, who possess farms of 30l. yearly rent, pay from 9s. to 14s. All above and below this sum pay in proportion. Cottagers, villagers and tradesmen, pay 2s. or 1s. 6d. each. The conversion money is very well laid out ; but the inhabitants of the glens complain of late that too much is expended on the great road. The sum collected is insufficient for keeping all the roads in proper repair, as they are very numerous, and liable to be hurt by the mountain torrents.

Character and Language.—Like the generality of the common Highlanders, the lower ranks here are modest, peaceable, and very obliging. There are few law-suits among them; and there have been none for these 10 years, except about legacies, multures, and marches. They are frugal, moderate, and industrious; and, except at merry meetings, are not much addicted to drinking.—The common language of the people is Gaelic. All the natives understand it; but many, especially of the old, do not understand English well. All the young people can speak English; but, in order to acquire it, they must go to service in the Low Country. The Gaelic is not spoken in its purity, neither here nor in any of the bordering parishes.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—This parish having good roads, particularly on the E. and W., has a safe and easy communication both with the Low Country and the Highlands. The traders, in the village, traffic much with the people of Balquhiddy and Killin. These they serve with oat-meal, barley-meal, and whisky; and get in return flax, linen yarn, and wool. There is a good slate quarry near the forest of Glenaitney. It is the only one in this part of the country. There is likewise an excellent lime quarry, at the W. end of the parish, very near the side of Loch-Erne, which has been
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the means of improving a great part of the land, in this and the neighbouring parish of Monivaird. The raw lime-stone is brought in a large boat to the E. end of the loch, and there sold, burnt or unburnt, as purchasers incline.—The greatest disadvantage, under which many parts of the parish labour, is the scarcity and high price of fuel. White timber, or peeled oak, once plentiful and cheap, is now scarce and dear. Peats, at best a troublesome and expensive, though the most common fuel, are distant from the village, and most of the farms, 2 or 3 miles. The nearest good coal lies at the distance of 25 miles from the village. Were the short road made across the hills to the southward of Comrie, which is earnestly longed for, coals will become cheaper and more plentiful. This road will lessen the distance very considerably, and, when procured, will tend much to advance the happiness and prosperity of this part of the country.

Antiquities.—In 3 different places in the parishes, there are to be seen the remains of small Druidical temples*. The greatest piece of antiquity here is the Roman camp on the plain of *Dalgincrofs*, in the neighbourhood of Comrie. On this plain are still visible very distinct remains of two camps, with only an inconsiderable distance between them, and joined by an *agger* †.

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Earthquakes.

* The stones of one of these near the village were broken to pieces, about 10 years ago, and used in building one of the new houses: And it has been remarked, by some lovers of antiquity, that those who were guilty of this act of sacrilege never prospered afterwards.

* Mr. GORDON, in his *Itinerarium Septentrionale*, published in 1726, shews this to have been the plain, on which the battle was fought between AGRICOLA and GALGACUS. One of the camps is 402 paces long, and 392 broad. The other is now considerably diminished by the encroachments of the Ruchil.

Earthquakes.—This parish, and the neighbourhood, have, for more than 3 years past, been not a little alarmed by several smart shocks of an earthquake. It was first felt, or rather loud noises, unaccompanied with any concussion, were heard by the inhabitants of Glenlednaig, during autumn 1789. These noises were first supposed to be peals of thunder; afterwards, as they were heard sometimes when the sky was quite clear, the people imagined they were occasioned by the firing of the carronades at Dunira. Finding, however, on inquiry, that they did not proceed from this cause, they were at a loss how to account for them, till the 5th of November 1789, when, about 6 o'clock in the evening, they were alarmed by a loud rumbling noise, accompanied with a severe shock of an earthquake. This shock, which is generally supposed to be the most violent of any that has happened here, was very sensibly felt over a tract of country of more than 20 miles in extent. Since that period the shocks have been very frequent, and at times pretty violent; but hitherto they have done no harm. Within these 3 or 4 weeks, since the weather has settled into drought, they have ceased altogether. The centre of the earthquake is, as nearly as can be guessed, about the mouth of Glenlednaig, a mile or two north from the village of Comrie. What supports this conjecture is, that the people who live on the E. side of the glen, feel the earthquake begin in the N. W., and proceed in a south-easterly direction: Those again who inhabit the country on the W. side of it, think it takes its rise in the N. E., and expires in the W.

N U M B E R XII.

UNITED PARISHES OF FORBES AND
KEARN.

(Presbytery of Alford—County and Synod of Aberdeen.)

By the Rev. Mr. BENJAMIN MERCER, Minister of the Parish.

Origin of the Names.

THE ancient name of the parish of FORBES is totally unknown. The parish seems to derive its present appellation from the noble family of FORBES, who have been proprietors of it for several centuries past. KEARN has its name from a cairn in the parish; which seems to have been, in ancient times, an extensive dry fortification; but when, or by whom erected, tradition itself pretends not to say.

Situation and Extent, &c.—These parishes are distant from Aberdeen about 22 miles, south-westerly; their length, from N. W. to S. E., is about $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles; their breadth 2. They meet in a point, in the middle of a ridge of mountains, which extend 10 or 12 miles from the chapel of Garrioch, on the N. E., to Auchendoir and Kildrummy on the S. W. These mountains have various appellations, according to their different

ferent situations. That part of them which separates Forbes and Kearn, and which is about 5 miles over, is called *Coreen*, which, they, who are acquainted with the Gaelic, say, signifies the *Hill of the Muirfowl*, and with which, indeed, it pretty much abounds. On the S. E. side of this mountain, and on a gentle declivity, extending about 2 miles along the banks of the river Don, lies the parish of Forbes. It contains, by a late measurement, 4075 acres; of which there are,

	<i>Acres.</i>		<i>Acres.</i>
Under tillage, - - -	807	Pasture, - - -	582
In meadow grass, - -	53	Muir, - - -	2533
In wood and grass, - -	60	Moss, - - -	49

—Kearn lies on the N. W. side of the said mountain, on a very easy declivity to the river Bogie. As the measurement of this parish never happened to come into the hands of the author hereof, he cannot ascertain its extent with precision; but it is supposed to contain 2716 acres, of which there may be about 600 under tillage, the rest in pasture, moss and muir.

Soil and Productions, &c.—The soil throughout the whole district is naturally light and dry. This quality renders it favourable for early harvests. The crop, however, in dry seasons, is generally thin and short; but, when refreshed with frequent showers of rain, it becomes very weighty and luxuriant, where the soil is in good heart. The principal productions of this district are oats and bear: Some tenants sow a few pease, but to no great extent. All of them, however, sow a few turnips; and plant such quantities of potatoes, greens and cabbages, as are sufficient for their own consumption. The district supplies itself with provisions, and sends a considerable quantity to market.

Cultivation.

Cultivation.—The old mode of cultivation continues ; the old Scotch plough, drawn by 8, 10, and 12 oxen, and some with horses and oxen together ; one crop of bear and 3 of corn, after dunging the infield ; and 5 crops of corn on outfield, after lathing. The outfield lies other 5 years in natural grafs ; but the infield generally goes on in the foresaid rotation. There is not an acre of land improved in this district, excepting a few, which Mr. Grant of Driminner has improved, in the farm which he has in his own hands ; all the rest lies in the same state in which it was 30 years ago.

Wood, Rivers and Fish, &c.—There are no artificial plantations of timber in this district. There is some natural wood along the banks of the Don and the Bogie, consisting of aller, birch, and some hagberry ; but of no great extent or value.—The river Don, which runs through a small part of the parish of Forbes, and almost bounds it on the S. E. and S., is a beautiful limpid stream, and abounds with fine burn trouts, some of them 3 lb. and 4 lb. weight. Some salmon come up in the spring, and are taken with the rod and spear in summer. It often overflows its banks, and, as its motion is rapid, it does great hurt to the crops in summer, and sometimes carries off great quantities of corn in autumn. The Bogie, which bounds Kearn on the N. W. having its source and part of its course in mossy ground, is naturally black and muddy. It abounds, however, with small burn trouts ; but no salmon come up so far as Kearn. It frequently also overflows its banks ; but, as its motion is slow, it does little hurt to the corn fields, either in summer or autumn. There is another small stream, called the Effel, which divides Forbes from Tillinefsle, and which has 1 lint and 3 corn mills on it.

Mountains.—The hill of Correen, which separates Forbes
from

from Kearn, is covered with heath, moss and turf. It makes an excellent sheep-walk in summer. As they stroll in it night and day, they afford excellent mutton in the months of September and October, in dry seasons. Its perpendicular height from the bed of the river Don, will be between 400 and 500 yards. Immediately on the opposite side of the river, there is another mountain, nearly of the same height, called Calwar; at the foot of which there is one farm belonging to the parish of Forbes: That part of the hill which belongs to this farm, is covered with heath, and makes a good sheep-walk.

Fuel.—Peats and turf are the only fuel made use of in this district, which the hill of Correen affords in great plenty, and of the best quality. The tenant, however, cannot accommodate his family with so necessary an article, but at a very high expence yearly. For besides the expence of casting up peats and turf, the whole summer quarter is spent in drying and bringing them home; and if to this be added the loss of the summer season, for preparing dung for the land, it will be impossible to calculate the damages, either to the tenant as an individual, or to the public at large. Heath is generally made use of for drying corn for the mill, as well as for house use. No coal is used in this district but for smithy work.

Manure.—Animal dung (mixed with earth and peat ashes), is the only manure used in the district. Although there be a lime-stone quarry in the hill of Correen, of a very fine quality, and plenty of peats and turf to burn it, no persevering attempt has yet been made to bring it to a proper bearing. The heritors are careless and remiss, and the tenants have neither abilities nor encouragement to work it.

Climate

Climate and Diseases.—The air is dry, clear, and healthful; and as the country in general is mountainous, it has a fine circulation at all seasons, though often very sharp and cold. The diseases incident to the people of this district, and of the country in general, are various: lingering fevers, of the nervous kind, few inflammatory; gout, rheumatism, jaundice, scrophula, scurvy, gravel and stone, small-pox, measles, whooping cough, &c. Instances of all these are frequently to be met with among the people. Some children are lost by the small-pox, measles and whooping cough. But as the people, in a great measure, have got over their prejudices against inoculation, very few now die in the small-pox. But of all the diseases that prevail in this country, the scurvy is the most epidemical, and may justly be called the bane and scourge of human nature. This distemper may primarily be contracted from various causes; idle indolent habits, unwholesome food, impure air, the want of attention to cleanliness, a sedentary life, &c. may occasion it. Sedentary employments are evidently nourishers of this, as well as of all other putrid disorders; and when any putrid disorder gets hold of the human constitution, it is not easily expelled, and of consequence becomes hereditary, and is handed down to posterity with all its woeful increasing force. This in reality is but too much the case with the scurvy among the people of this country. When this distemper is cutaneous, its effects are often dreadful; but 9 out of 10 have it latent in the body, and then its effects are baneful indeed! It falls upon the softer and warmer parts of the body, mixes itself intimately with the circulation of the blood, corrupts it, weakens and enfeebles all parts of the frame, and corrodes the lungs, stomach and intestines; hence foetid breath, perspiration and stool; costive habits, obstructions of the menses; various pains throughout the body; coughs and difficulty of breathing; sore eyes and throats; stitches,

stitches; headachs; swellings and boils, now and then, on various parts of the body; lassitudes and melancholy habits, &c. All these, and many more that will not bear description, are the dismal effects of this dreadful scourge, and are all severely felt from time to time among the people at large, and premature death is often the consequence; several instances of which could be given in this, and in other neighbouring districts, within these 10 years past. It is dreadful to think in how many ways this shocking distemper preys on the human frame, and often renders the unhappy sufferer a nuisance to himself and to society. Besides, the nature of this, as well as of all other putrid distempers, is extremely infectious: The clothes scorbutic persons wear and sleep in, and the air they breath, will convey insensibly the contagion to a clean person; and they who sleep with them must soon feel the woeful consequences*. It is a pity that no specific has yet been found sufficient, to eradicate this growing evil, or at least to counteract its malignant force. Nothing, perhaps, would be more worthy the attention of government, than to offer premiums for the most effectual specifics against so destructive a distemper; the consequence might be, the hardy soldier, and the healthy subject.

Population.

* Of the truth of the above remarks, there is a melancholy instance in this parish, of a person, who, after having enjoyed the best state of health for the space of 48 years of his age, unfortunately, by sleeping with a person deeply tinged with this distemper, in a small close room, caught the infection, and, for 10 years past, has experienced all its dreadful effects; and indeed, for three of these years, has been rendered incapable, in a great measure, of attending to any business; and, after laying out, of a small income, a considerable sum of money, on doctors, medicines, goat's whey, &c. endeavouring to get clear of the distemper, he has little other hopes left, than to spin out the remainder of his days in the same woeful situation, and to wait for purification in the grave. This ought to be a warning to every individual in health, to beware with whom they associate, lest they meet with the same fatal consequences.

Population.—As no regular register has been kept here for many years past, no proper account can be given of the population at different periods; only, in the year 1722, when Forbes and Kearn were united, the number of examinable persons in both was - - - - - 300

And, in 1755, when the return was made to Dr. Webster, the number of souls was - - - - - 436

At present (1793), it amounts only to - - - - - † 370

Decrease, - - - - - 66

Of these there are	Males.	Females.	Total.
At and under 12 years of age, -	49	44	93
Between 13 and 69, inclusive, -	121	137	258
At and above 70, - - -	11	8	19
	<u>181</u>	<u>189</u>	<u>370</u>

The number of families in both parishes is - - - 83

The average number of persons in each, - - - 4

Manufactures.—The chief manufacture, carried on in this and the neighbouring parishes, is knitting of stockings; in which occupation most of the women, throughout the whole year, and some boys and old men, during the winter season, are employed. They receive for spinning, doubling, twisting and weaving each pair, from 1od. to 2s. Sterling, according to the fineness or coarseness of the materials, and the dimensions of the stockings. Some few women are employed in spinning lint.

† The number of souls in these parishes has been much the same as at present for 16 years past.

<i>Cattle.</i> —The number of black cattle, in the district, is	525
— sheep, —	2074
— horses, —	105
— carts, —	50

Church and School.—At what time the churches of Forbes and Kearn were built, no person living knows. They are at present in bad repair; and, at the death of the present incumbent, the parishes are to be annexed to Auchendoir and Tillesle. The manse was built about 70 years ago, and has got many partial repairs since, but is still a mean habitation. The stipend is 22l. Sterling, including 4l. Scotch for communion elements, and 3 chalders of victual, together with a glebe of about 8 acres, grass included. The tithes are said to be valued and exhausted. Lord Forbes lately was, but now Lord Fife is, patron. There never has been any legal school in this district; only some of the ministers either kept a school themselves, or kept a boy for educating their own children, and admitted the children in the neighbourhood to partake of the benefit. The present incumbent applied for a school 4 years ago; but the application was unsuccessful.

Poor.—Before the year 1782, the funds for the poor were only about 30l. Sterling, besides the ordinary collections, which scarcely amount to 2l. Sterling per annum. But in 1782-3 the said funds were totally exhausted; and therefore no pensions can be bestowed on any, but only some assistance given where it is absolutely necessary. No poor's rates have yet taken place in this country. In the years 1782 and 1783, by the activity of the session, partly by the foresaid funds, and partly by the government's gratuity, together with the use of private money, the poor in this district were equally well supplied

plied with any in the neighbourhood. But the heritors neither took any concern, nor expended a single shilling for their relief.

Heritors, Rents, and Roads.—There are 3 heritors in this district, only 1 of whom resides. The valued rent is 1166l. Scotch; the present rent, reckoning the victual paid to the heritors at 12s. Sterling per boll, is 652l. Sterling. The roads in this district are made and repaired by the statute labour only; and, of consequence, they are in a most wretched state, being scarcely passable in the winter season.

Antiquities.—There are no antiquities in this district worth mentioning, excepting some Druidical places of worship, and a few trifling tumuli, which seem to have been burial places in the times of heathenism. None of them have yet been opened. Driminner, the ancient seat of the family of Forbes, is the only castle and gentleman's seat in the district. It seems to have been built about the middle of the 16th century; the oldest date is 1577.

Character.—That the people in this district are satisfied with their present situation, cannot with propriety be said; their rents being triple and quadruple what they formerly were, their lands still unimproved, their leases short, their stock exhausted in the years 1782 and 1783, besides the high rates of servants fees. All these, as well as other circumstances that could be mentioned, keep them still in pinching poverty, in spite of their utmost industry. They are, in stature, about the middle size, and, in general, of a somewhat swarthy complexion. As to their manner of life, they are industrious, sober, regular attendants on public worship and other ordinances of the gospel; charitable, and of an obliging temper and disposition. There are no sectaries among them.

NUMBER

NUMBER XIII.

PARISH OF CAMERON.

(Presbytery of St. Andrews—Synod and County of Fife.)

By the Rev. Mr. JOHN MAIR, Minister.

Erection, Situation, and Extent.

THIS parish was disjoined from St. Andrews about 160 years ago. The church and manse lie almost in the centre, about 3 computed miles S. W. from the city of St. Andrews. Its extent, from N. to S., is 3 computed miles; and 4 from E. to W.; but, from N. E. to S. W., and from N. W. to S. E., 4 computed miles each way.

Cultivation, Minerals, Soil, &c.—About 30 years before the disjunction, there was plenty of game; and long after that period, even no farther back than 60 years ago, almost all eastward from the church, there was one continued tract of heath; but at present nothing of that kind is to be seen, excepting upon the lands of Lathocker, belonging to Miss SCOTT, who, it is to be hoped, when she arrives at majority, will give proper encouragement to cultivate that barren spot. What has been
of

of singular service in making such an alteration is the lime-stone and coal, with which this parish abounds. The soil differs very much through the whole parish; and though some very good grain is produced, (especially on the farms to the northward of the church), yet, in general, it is better adapted for pasturage. The proprietors are so sensible of this, that more than one half of the parish, which was all open fields 30 years ago, is now inclosed; and similar improvements are daily making upon the rest of it.

Farm Rents, Prices of Labour, &c.—Rents are considerably raised within these 30 years. All the farms, of which leases have been lately granted, produce to the proprietor double, and some of them triple, of what they did formerly. The price of labour, in some measure, keeps pace with the rents. Tailors, whose wages were no more than 4d. per day, demand 10d.; masons, who used to work for a merk, (13s. 4d. Scotch), look for 1s. 8d. Ster.; day labourers cannot be got under 1s.; common ploughmen have raised their wages, from 40s. and a pair of shoes, to 5l. Sterling; and they who sow and *bigg*, expect 7 guineas. Women servants, who used to be satisfied with 20s. in the year, will not now engage under 2l. 10s. at the lowest, and few can be got under 3l. The article of coals is very much advanced in price within these 40 years: A cart load at the hill cost only 1s. 4d.; but now, for the same quantity, 3s., and sometimes 3s. 6d. is paid. Indeed, it must be owned, that the expence of working coal is greatly increased. Two fire engines are employed for that purpose, in this parish, by Mr. DURHAM of LARGO, and the coal-hewers receive more wages. Adjacent to one of these fire engines, he has lately erected a number of houses to accommodate the workmen.

Population.

Population.—Though this be a new village, the number of inhabitants in the parish has increased very little within these 13 years, and has decreased considerably within these 40 years, as appears from the following

POPULATION TABLE of the Parish of CAMERON.

Number of souls in 1755,	1295	Number of weavers,	-	20
Ditto in 1793,	1165	tailors,	-	4
	—	wrights,	-	7
Decrease in 38 years,	130	shoemakers,	-	2
	—	millers,	-	2
Population in 1780,	1151	maçons,	-	5
	—	smiths,	-	6
Increase within the last 13 years,	14	flax dressers,	-	1

The above decrease is to be attributed to the many inclosures which have taken place, which naturally operate in diminishing the necessity of having a number of servants.

Climate and Longevity.—There is no disease peculiar to this parish; and when any become epidemical in the neighbourhood, they seldom find their way so high as to reach this, excepting the small-pox and the measles, which the straggling poor sometimes introduce. The climate is remarkably healthy; and as an evidence of this, six persons, within these 40 years, were all alive about the same time, aged upwards of 90. At present, a few can reckon 80 years; and the minister himself (who writes this narrative) is 71 complete, and has been 41 years in the parish, having been ordained in March 1752.

Church.—The stipend is made up by 10 bolls and 3 firlots of bear; 29 bolls, 2 firlots and 6 lippies of sufficient oats, (the expression

expression in the decret of locality), and by 98 bolls 2 firlots of black oats, at half price, with 158l. 13s. 4d. Scotch, as the parsonage tithes, and the vicarage of St. Andrews and Cameron parishes; the collecting of which is both expensive and troublesome, being paid by 110 persons, and some of the articles not exceeding *one penny and three farthings*; a very trifling income! Indeed, under the denomination of communion elements, one particular farm is saddled with 12 bolls and 2 firlots of black oats, at half price; and there is a sufficiency of unexhausted tithes to answer a tolerable augmentation, which will certainly be obtained, whenever an incumbent shall pursue for it.

Rent, School, and Poor.—The valued rent is 5859l. 7s. 10d. Scotch, and yet affords no more than 100 merks of salary to the schoolmaster.—The minister and elders have hitherto maintained the poor by the weekly collections in the church, and the emoluments arising from the mort-cloth.

NUMBER XIV.

PARISH OF KILMARONOCK.

(County and Presbytery of Dumbarton—Synod of Glasgow
and Ayr.

By the Rev. Mr. ANDREW WHITE, Minister.

Name, Erection, and Extent.

KILMARONOCK signifies the cell, chapel, or burying-place of St. Maronoch, or St. Marnoch. About the middle of last century, a considerable part of the parish was disjoined from Kilmaronock, and annexed to Bonhill. Its present extent is about 5 miles in length, and from 2 to 4 miles in breadth. From the Dumbarton moors, the ground has in general a gentle declivity towards the north.

River, Lake, Hills, and Soil.—The windings of the river *Endrick*, through a plain of more than 3000 acres, the House of Buchanan situated in the middle of the plain, with the extensive lawns and forests belonging to the Duke of Montrose, present to the traveller through this parish a most beautiful landscape. Lochlomond, with its numerous islands and variegated banks, the surrounding hills, and towering moun-

ns,

tains, with the cloud-capt Benlomond, combine to render the scenery very picturesque.—On the banks of the Endrick, the soil is a deep rich loam, very favourable for pasturage or tillage; on the rising ground above the plain, the soil is in general a cold wet till; and, towards the moors, of a mossy quality.

Agriculture.—That there are seldom instances of good husbandry on small farms, except on soils of the greatest fertility, or where there is a command of manure, is a maxim which is verified in this parish. Many of the farms are so small, as to yield but a scanty subsistence to the farmer; and as no lime, or stimulating manures can be got but at a high price, little attention is paid to the melioration of soil, or rotation of crops. From the price of labour and manure, compared with the benefit of rearing and fattening cattle, some of the most judicious farmers, in this parish and neighbourhood, find their interest in having their grounds in pasture rather than tillage. But as agriculture is acknowledged to be the most permanent basis of the wealth of a country, it would certainly redound to the honour and interest of gentlemen, who are possessed of large estates, to exhibit a pattern of improvement; or, if this is not found convenient, judicious and experienced farmers might be more encouraged, by letting leases on one or more lives. Such a practice, it is evident, would be attended with the most beneficial consequences; at least, it would certainly be preferable to the custom, of granting leases of arable farms for nine, or even nineteen years; where the farmer no sooner begins to improve, than he pursues an opposite system, of exhausting his farm by too frequent cropping, from the idea that he may be turned out at the expiration of the lease, and a stranger who offers more rent preferred.

Mills and Multures.—There are three corn-mills in the parish; the greatest part of the lands are thirled, or astricted to one or other of these mills. The multure, in general, after a deduction of seed and horse-corn, amounts to about a twelfth part of the crop; a servitude not only highly oppressive to the farmer, but which has a tendency to prevent emulation among the millers, in the execution of their business.

Fisheries.—The Endrick abounds, at certain seasons, with salmon, pikes, trouts, perches, parrs, &c. There is an excellent salmon fishery in Lochlomond, near the place where the Endrick discharges into the lake. As the salmon are not now interrupted in their course up the Leven, as formerly, the fisheries, on the banks of the lake, are likely to turn out very profitable to the different proprietors.

Population.—The population of this parish is on the decline, chiefly owing to the increase of trade and manufactures at Bonhill and Balfron, where many of the people have settled. The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was - 1193
From an enumeration in 1792, there were found to be

only	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	820
									373

Of these there were, below 10 years of age, - 210

The number of families was - - - - 175

No authentic account can be given of the births, as many of the people, and particularly the Dissenters, decline to have them inserted in the parish register.

Heritors and Rent.—The number of heritors is 54. The greatest part of them have but small properties: 32 are resident,

dent, and 22 non-resident. The valued rent is 3329l. 16s. 6d. Scotch : The real rent cannot be easily ascertained, as a great part of the lands are in the hands of the proprietors.

Church and Schools.—The church has much the appearance of antiquity. The manse was built in 1751, and since that time it has been enlarged and repaired. The stipend, by a late augmentation, besides the glebe, is 6 chalders of meal, 1 chalder of bear, and 40l. 5s. Sterling in money, including communion elements. Lord Stonefield is patron.—The parochial schoolmaster has 100 merks salary. The number of scholars is usually about 40. His living is only about 15l. per annum. Besides the parochial school, there are generally other two. The schoolmaster of one of them has 50 merks salary, besides school fees. If some suitable encouragement is not soon given to schoolmasters, it is apprehended, that, in many places, the education of children will be totally neglected.

Prices of Labour, Fuel, &c.—The wages of a good ploughman, for the year, besides board and lodging, are from 8l. to 12l. Sterling. Those of a woman servant, for the year, besides board, are from 3l. to 4l. Sterling. The prices of provisions are nearly the same with the Glasgow and Dumbarton markets.—Peats are the common fuel. Coals are brought from Kilpatrick, a distance of 12 or 14 miles.

Roads.—The military road from Stirling to Dumbarton, after crossing the Endrick, by an excellent modern bridge, passes, from E. to W., through the parish. There is also an excellent turnpike road, which is now nearly completed, leading from this place by Easter Kilpatrick to Glasgow.

Springs,

Springs, Woods, and Game.—Every field almost abounds with perennial springs, oozing from rocks of free-stone. Of these *St. Maronoch's Well* is the most famous. From the springs collected, small rivulets run, intersecting the grounds, and render them very convenient for pasturage.—There are several woods in the parish, the value of which has considerably increased within these few years. The woods on the banks of Lochlomond, belonging to Miss Buchanan of Drumkill, and John Buchanan, Esq. of Ardoch, abound with woodcocks, in the beginning of winter.—The moors, on the confines of the parish, are much resorted to by the sportsmen, in the hunting season. There is a general complaint, that the birds are much scarcer within these few years. This may be partly accounted for from the increase of the stock of sheep, and the small inducement the shepherds have to preserve the game.

Antiquities.—There are the remains of 2 Romish chapels. At *Catter*, now the property of the Duke of MONTROSE, there is a large artificial mound of earth, where, in ancient times, courts were held; near to which the Duke of Lennox had a place of residence. There is not now the smallest vestige of the building. The castles of Kilmaronock* and Batturret†, now in ruins, appear to have been formerly very magnificent edifices.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There are no towns nor villages in the parish, nor any manufactures carried on. The men

* The property of Robert M'Goune, Esq. of Mains.

† The property of George Haldane, Esq. of Gleneagles.

men are, in general, employed in husbandry; but, as the farms are small, they are not oppressed with hard labour. The women are engaged in spinning flax, or in work they receive from manufacturers. The people are grave and sober; but some of them are rather disposed to be litigious*.

NUM.

* About the beginning of the present century, the parish was much exposed to the depredation of certain freebooters, who carried off the cattle; so that the farmers, for their protection, engaged to pay them, or others, a certain tax, named *black meal*, which was regularly exacted until 1745, when a better police was established.

NUMBER XV.

PARISH OF AIRLY.

(Presbytery of Meigle—County of Forfar—Synod of Angus
and Mearns.

By the Rev. Mr. JAMES STORMONTH, Minister.

Form, Extent, and Soil.

THE form of this parish is an irregular parallelogram. In length it is between 5 and 6 miles; in breadth between 3 and 4, and in some places more. The soil is various, generally a light sand, or deep black mould.

Situation, Climate and Diseases.—The parish may be divided into 2 districts. About two thirds of it lie in Strathmore, and the other forms the higher ground, which seems to terminate the strath on the N. In the former the climate is mildest; but the air is most pure and healthy in the latter, and freest from the fogs. Rheumatisms, flow fevers, and sometimes agues prevail, especially in the neighbourhood of the mossy and swampy ground.

Surface

Surface and Cultivation.—The lower part of the parish has the appearance of being flat; but in many places it is very unequal. About 26 years ago, it was almost in a state of nature, with scarcely an enclosure in it: Now, the greatest part is cultivated to a high degree, and about two thirds of it substantially enclosed, either with stone dikes, ditch and hedge, or ditch and paling; which fences, with the stripes and clumps of planting, well dressed fields, and handsome farm steadings, make a most beautiful appearance.

	<i>Acres.</i>
Of arable land it is supposed there are about	- 4300
Of mossy, swampy, and waste ground, about	- 700
And in planting, about	- 900
In all,	- 5900

Produce and Cattle, &c.—The common returns from the arable ground, in oats and bear, are from 4 to 6 bolls per acre; and of wheat from 8 to 10. There is but little hay made, the farmer finding his account rather in fattening cattle.* Of these there may be reared in a season about 500, and fattened on turnips from 180 to 200. There are about 400 more cattle in the parish. The mode of culture is much the same with what has been described in other improved parishes. Farmers, who pay from 150l. to 300l. of rent, possess about one half. There is one farmer indeed who pays more; but he, with other two, does not reside. There is one threshing machine in the parish. There is only one flock of sheep. The ewes were brought from Northumberland about a year and a half ago, and thrive remarkably well. Their fleeces bring about 4s. each; and, when fat, they weigh about 22 lb. per leg.

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* The prices of labour and provisions are much the same as in the neighbouring parishes of Meikle and Kingoldrum.

leg. Their number, and that of the ploughs and mills, is as follows :

SHEEP.		PLOUGHS.		MILLS.	
9 score ewes,	- 180	Two-horse ploughs,	- 33	Corn mills,	- 4
9 score lambs,	- 180	Three-horse ditto,	- 7	Flour ditto,	- 1
7 score hogs,	- 140	Four-horse ditto,	- 16	Lint ditto,	- 1
Total,	- 500	Total,	- 56	Total,	- 6

Heritors, Rent, and Fuel.—The heritors are 7 in number ; none of whom reside, excepting one gentleman, a few months in summer. There is only one gentleman's seat in the parish ; but Airly Castle will soon make another.—The valued rent is 3310*l.* Scotch. The real rent is about 2850*l.* Sterling, including what arises from moss and marl. The former will bring for peats, the chief fuel of the lower class, near 100*l.*, and the latter about 300*l.*

Church, School, and Poor.—The church was rebuilt in 1783, and the manse in 1792. The living is 85 bolls 3 fir-lots 1 peck $\frac{1}{3}$ lippie meal, and 43 bolls 3 fir-lots bear, with about 9*l.* of vicarage tithes, a glebe and garden. The Earl of STRATHMORE is patron.—The schoolmaster's salary and school fees amount to about 16*l.* or 17*l.*—The poor are supplied by the weekly collections, mortcloth money, and the interest of about 150*l.* The number upon the roll, during the last 10 years, has been from 4 to 9, besides many who have received occasional supplies. In 1782, 20*l.* Sterling were expended in purchasing meal for the most necessitous families.

Population.—The number of parishioners has decreased within these 40 years, owing to the improvements of land and junction of farms, which have also greatly diminished the number of inhabited houses.

POPULATION TABLE of the Parish of AIRLY.

Number of souls in 1755,	-	1012	Members of the Established		
Ditto in 1792,	-	865	Church,	-	854
			Seceders,	-	7
Decrease,	-	147	Episcopalians,	-	4
					<u>865</u>

— houses uninhabited, or pulled			Persons under 10 years of age,	187
down,	-	70	— between 10 and 20,	150
— weavers,	-	49	— — 20 and 50,	399
— tailors,	-	5	— — 50 and 70,	110
— shoemakers,	-	4	— — 70 and 80,	16
— smiths,	-	5	— — 80 and 90,	3
— wrights,	-	9		

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and BURIALS, for the last 10 years.

Years	Mar.	Births.		Bur.
		Mal.	Fem.	
1782	14	12	7	16
1783	11	21	8	11
1784	10	12	8	12
1785	10	14	18	14
1786	10	14	13	9
1787	7	10	17	15
1788	11	12	20	14
1789	8	13	12	14
1790	7	17	14	8
1791	13	9	10	24
Tot.	101	134	127	137

AIRLY CASTLE.—Airly Castle, which gave title to Ogilvy Earl of Airly, is situated in the N. W. corner of the parish, at the conflux of the Melgin and Isla. It is built on a promontory, formed by these two rivers, and elevated above their bed more than 100 feet. It has been a very large and strong fortress, seemingly inaccessible on every side but the South, on which it has been secured by a ditch and draw-bridge, more than 20, perhaps 30 feet wide, and a wall (the front of the

the castle), 10 feet thick, and 35 feet high*. For romantic situation, and natural beauties, (such as the serpentine windings of rivers, trees and shrubs starting from the brows of steep rocks, and lining the sides of deep dens), it exceeds any thing in this part of the country. Till within these 3 years it has remained a ruin; but now an elegant modern house, built on the principal foundations of the castle, is just finishing.

Castle of Balrie.—The castle of Balrie, another ruin, situated in Strathmore, has been built upon a rising ground, towards the W. end of the present moss (formerly a large loch), containing about 120 acres, to the eastward of the castle, and 6 or 8 to the westward. The present proprietor, about 10 years ago, dug up a part of the causeway which led into the draw-bridge; so that there is little doubt of this place having been once very strong, and almost impregnable. The walls, in general, are about 8 feet thick; but the house has been small, and rather intended for a place of refuge in times of danger, than the constant residence of a family †.

Moss of Balrie.—The moss of Balrie was begun to be drained about 40 years ago, and has, at various intervals, undergone different degrees of draining; the great object of which has no doubt been the immense quantity of fine shell marl found in it, as well as peats. The one has contributed

as

* At what time it was built, is not so certain, as that it was destroyed by the Marquis of Argyll in 1640; which was repaid in kind by the Marquis of Montrose and the royalists, a few years after, when they burnt MUCKART and DOLLAR, and overthrew LOCHOW, Argyll's principal residence.

† The neighbouring lands, with the castle, were the property of the last Lord Viscount FENTON, whose eldest daughter married into the family of STRATHMORE, and of which lands the Earl of Strathmore is still superior. It is said to be more than 100 years since any part of the roof of the castle was standing.

as much to the improvement of the neighbouring country, as the other has to the comfort of the poor. Several thousand bolls of marl are dug out of this moss yearly, which in price has arisen, from 4½d. to 10d. per boll, 8 cubical feet being allowed to the boll. And there are still beds of marl in it 16 feet perpendicular, by the boring iron, and the bottom not found; but impossible to work out, without more water being taken off, which will be as difficult as expensive*. Considerable quantities of marl have likewise been found in the mosses of other proprietors.

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* Several very large deer's horns have been found in the Moss of Balrie; one of which, presented by the proprietor to the Antiquarian Society, weighed about 24lb. There are other two in his possession, one of which weighs about 16lb. and the other about 14 lb. In the year 1775, the tusk of a wild boar was dug up upon a marl spade. The length of it, from the supposed seat in the jaw-bone, is 4 inches; the greatest breadth near two. It resembles very much the colour and substance of ivory, but is said to be only bone.

NUMBER XVI.

PARISH OF DUNNOTTAR.

(County of Kincardine—Presbytery of Fordoun—Synod of Angus and Mearns.)

By the Rev. Mr. JAMES WALKER, Minister.

Name, Extent, and Situation.

DUNNOTTAR is said to have been anciently written *Dunotyr*, which is of Gaelic original, derived from the situation of the old castle bearing that name, the ruins of which stand upon a rock on the coast, almost insulated from the land.—This parish is nearly of a triangular form, extending about 4 miles on each side. It is divided almost into two equal parts, by a den, or hollow, which takes its origin at the N. E. angle; and, widening as it reaches the southern boundary, gives beginning to the great *How*, or *Hollow of the Mearns*; which also extends through the shire of Angus, under the name of Strathmore; being bounded all along, on the W., by the chain of the Grampian mountains, which reach obliquely across the island, from this neighbourhood to the west coast*.

Surface,

* Here it may be observed, that along this hollow appears to have been the
line

Surface, Soil, and Minerals.—The surface of this parish, in general, is uneven, with small risings, but no considerable hill. The soil is various: Toward the sea coast, loamy and clayey; in the middle, wet and mossy; towards the West, gravelly and moorish. The *strata* appear, both from the sea coast and inland quarries, to *steep* toward the S. W.; which observation is also applicable to all the country round. The soil is full of round small stones, of various kinds, having the appearance of being water-worn. These stones are very useful for improvement, in filling drains in wet land, almost every field having sufficiency in itself; and the harbour is surrounded with excellent free-stone quarries, of a most durable quality, which prove extremely valuable for building.

Climate, Diseases, Rivulets, &c.—The air and climate here are much the same as along the whole east coast; variable, giving

line of march, which all invaders from England followed, at the different periods when they over-ran Scotland. To this they were particularly directed, by the fordable passages of the river Tay, above the flow of the tide at Perth, and confined by the Grampian chain on the west. The progress of the Romans, particularly, in this direction, is evident, from a regular series of encampments all the way along the foot of the hills. And it appears probable, that in this neighbourhood, where the hills join with the sea, the famous battle was fought, narrated by TACITUS, of the Scotch, under GARGACUS, with the Romans, stopt at the end of their progress, by the mountains and morasses; which are described as being at the foot of the Grampians, in sight of the Roman fleet. But at no other place in Scotland do the Grampian hills approach the sea. And in the neighbouring parish of Fetteresso, about three miles to the northward of this place, there are the remains of a very large irregular camp in the hills, strongly entrenched on the quarter next the sea. This would seem to have belonged to the Scotch army; whereas, at the distance of about two miles farther down, close to a flat sea beach, there were evident vestiges of a Roman camp, a few years ago, though they are now defaced by the improvement of the ground. And upon a moor nigh to the supposed Scotch camp, there are a number of tumuli, indicating it to have been the field of battle.

giving occasion to rheumatism and consumption; but not remarkable for any other disease. Agues are here quite unknown, though prevalent through all the parishes to the southward.—No rivers run through this parish, but several small rivulets, which chiefly find their way into the *Carron* upon the N.; the rest of the water running toward the southern boundary, and forming there a small stream. In the *Carron* there are excellent trouts, and at its mouth a salmon fishing in the sea, of which the produce is very considerable.

Sea Coast and Fowls.—The sea coast is very bold, formed of the *plumb-pudding rock*, and containing several deep caves. The most remarkable part of the coast is called *Fowls-beugh*, about a mile in extent, and 30 fathoms high, inhabited by sea fowls; such as gulls, coots, and kittyweaks, in such numbers, that it is an employment, during the summer months, to climb these perpendicular rocks, by the help of a rope tied round a man's middle, in which he is let down from the top to catch the fowls. The feathers and down of these fowls are in great demand; and the kittyweaks, whose flesh resembles that of solan geese, are sold at high prices in the neighbouring towns. A rent of about 2l. 10s. is paid to the proprietor for the liberty of catching the fowls: And 6 men are commonly employed in the work; 5 of these being required to let down and draw up the person in the rope. These sea fowls are all migratory, appearing in April, and removing southward in September.

Fish and Kelp.—The fishing, upon this part of the coast, has much declined for some years past, the sea not producing near its usual quantity: But what are caught, are of excellent quality. Three boats and a yawl, with 6 men in each, are commonly

commonly employed from this parish. The fish caught are cod, ling, haddocks, whittings, and flounders; besides a considerable quantity of crabs and lobsters, which are mostly consumed in the neighbourhood. Some kelp is made along this coast, once in three years, the sea weed requiring that time to grow. But the quantity is very inconsiderable.

Town and Harbour.—At the N. E. corner of the parish, where the Carron runs into the sea, is situated the small town of STONEHAVEN, or STONEHIVE. The principal circumstance observable with respect to it, is its harbour, for which there is the best natural situation. It is a basin, sheltered from the S. E. by a very high rock, which stands out into the sea; and on the N. E. there is a head, or quay, which in some measure defends it from that quarter. At high tides there is a depth of 22 feet water at the entrance. If the present quay were carried farther out, and another built opposite to it, vessels could lie in perfect safety. And it would be of the utmost importance to all the shipping upon the E. coast of Scotland, that some improvement of this kind were made: For there is not a harbour betwixt the Frith of Forth and Cromarty, that vessels in distress can so easily get into; as all the seafaring people can bear witness. A small aid from government would be requisite for this improvement, to be joined to the shore-dues and private contributions.

Commerce and Government.—There is very little trade here, except by 3 or 4 small vessels, which are employed for supplying the neighbourhood, in bringing lime and coals from Sunderland and the Frith of Forth, with a few cargoes of wood, iron and flax from the Baltic*. The town consists of

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* This town, as well as the rest of the parish, has laboured under a great disadvantage

feus granted by the Earls *Marischal* of Scotland, within whose estate it was situated. It is a burgh of barony, of which the jurisdiction, by charter, is vested in magistrates, chosen by the superior and feuers. The principal support of the town has been derived from the sheriff court of the county, which has its seat here;—retail shops for the accommodation of the neighbourhood;—commission upon flax given out to spin for manufactures in Aberdeen and Montrose;—and the provision for shipping, which occasionally put in here, or are detained by contrary winds.—The number of procurators, or attornies, before the sheriff court, is 4.

Manufactures.—In point of natural situation, no place has greater advantages, for the establishment of manufactures, than Stonehaven, having a good sea port, an excellent command of running water, a populous district of country around it, and abounding with the best spinners †. In the course of last year (1792), some branches of manufacture, of the Osnaburgh, sheeting, linen cheque, and cotton woolsey kinds, have been here set on foot, chiefly by merchants in Arbroath. These manufactures are as yet but in their infancy; but are proposed

disadvantage for many years past, by being part of the forfeitures of 1715, sold to the York Building Company. The affairs of that Company having fallen into disorder, about the year 1740, ever since that period there has been no superior to forward the trade, and superintend the police of Stonehaven: And few of its inhabitants being possessed of any stock, little was to be expected from them. Hence all improvement was prevented, and matters continued in the same state of backwardness.

† A considerable manufacture of sail-cloth was carried on here some years ago, by a merchant in Aberdeen, which employed about 50 looms within the town, and 15 in the neighbourhood. But though attended with great success, it was given up, upon the death of that gentleman, and an end put to the trade of the place since that period.

proposed to be considerably extended. Their present state is as follows :

The number of weavers employed is 42, who earn, at an average,

8s. 6d. per week, amounting in the year to	-	-	-	L. 928	4	0
Six flaxdressers, at 10s. per week, amounting to	-	-	-	156	0	0
Twelve labourers, 5s. per week,	-	-	-	156	0	0
Total wages paid to manufacturers in the year,				-	L. 1240	4 0

And, since the commencement of the present year (1793), another manufacture of sail-cloth has been established, containing 12 looms, requiring a capital of 300l. each. But to shew to what extent the manufactures might be carried here, it is to be observed, that there are wages given to spinners in this neighbourhood, by persons in Stonehaven, who give out flax for manufacturers here and in other places, to the annual amount of 2652l. 9s. 6d. Of this sum, a large proportion is on account of manufactures in Aberdeen, Montrose, and Arbroath, which have the burden of carriage of the flax and return of the yarn, to and from these towns, at the respective distances of 15, 22, and 36 miles. To Montrose alone, there are sent, weekly, at an average, 30 cwt. of yarn throughout the year.

Manner of Living.—The style of living here is much above what might be supposed in so small a town, possessed of so little trade. But it is much to be regretted, that among the tradesmen, and lower sort of people, the practice of drinking spirits is much too prevalent, to the ruin of their morals, health, and circumstances. The native beverage of our country, ale, is despised, though it is fitted to support the labourer for his work, and encourages agriculture and manufactures; while spirits, which enervate body and mind, also consume the profit of labour.

Revenue, Imports, &c.—The public revenue of Stonehaven consists chiefly of the shore dues, amounting annually to about 45*l.*, in which there has been a very great increase of late years, from the great quantity of lime brought by sea, for the improvement of lands in the neighbourhood.—Upon an average of 3 years, 10,566 bolls yearly have been imported from Sunderland and from the Frith of Forth, each boll being 128 Scotch pints. The rest of the revenue arises from 4 fairs in the year, and some small patches of ground, producing together about 20*l.* more. This sum, if properly applied, would do much to the improvement of the harbour: But, till of late years, it has been levied to little account. From this fund, however, the town has lately been provided in excellent water, conveyed in leaden pipes; the streets put in good repair; and a new steeple built, with a public clock.

Fuel.—No lime-stone or coals have ever been discovered in this neighbourhood; nor are there the least indications of them. The general fuel of Stonehaven, is coals, however, which are brought partly from the Frith of Forth, and partly from Newcastle and Sunderland: The Scotch coal at the usual rate of 8*s.* 6*d.* per boll, of 72 stone; the English at 3*s.* for 24 stone avoirdupoise; of which the last are found cheapest and most economical*. But while coals are so heavily taxed, the greatest bar is laid in the way of manufactures and improvement; which is here the more sensibly felt, as our neighbours in Forfarshire, from a local exception, are free from this obnoxious tax, no duty being paid, on Scotch coal, all along the coast of Fife and Angus, till they are brought to the borders of this county. But it is with great pleasure we understand, that government have it in view to grant us relief in this necessary article. Peats in this neighbourhood are

* In 1793, Scotch coal was up at 11*s.*, and English at 3*s.* 6*d.*

are so very distant (about 6 miles), that every person is convinced that coals, even high priced as they are, yield the cheapest fire.

Population.—Notwithstanding all the disadvantages this parish has long laboured under, there has been a gradual increase of the population within these 40 years, as appears from the following comparative view of several exact enumerations, taken at different periods.

					<i>Increase</i>
In 1755,	the total number of souls,	returned to Dr. Webster,	was	1570	
In 1772,	there were in the town,	923,	in the country,	939; total	1862 292
In 1775,	_____	927,	_____	942; _____	1869 7
In 1791,	_____	1012,	_____	894; _____	1906 37
In 1792,	_____	1072,	_____	890; _____	1962 56
Total increase within these 40 years,					392

It appears, however, that the number has been almost stationary for the last 20 years, with only a small addition in the town, of late, owing to the establishment of the new manufactures, and a trifling decrease in the country, from the expulsion of cottagers by the farmers.

It has been found impossible to keep bills of mortality, with any accuracy, owing to several circumstances. The people never were in the practice of regularly giving in their childrens names for registration, particularly the Dissenters; and since the imposition of the late tax, hardly any have applied for that purpose*. The number of births entered on the

* In the law respecting the tax on births and burials, there appears a defect of not enacting a compulsory upon people to register, agreeable to the spirit of the act, by empowering the keeper of each parish register to sue defaulters, and

the register, has generally been only about 25. The number of marriages is ascertained, by the proclamation list, to be, at an average, 15. A register of deaths has never been attempted here; and to attain any accuracy in it, would be still more difficult than with respect to births, as not one half of the people who die in this parish are buried within it, but are carried to the neighbouring parish of Fetteresso, partly to the church-yard there, and partly to the burying ground of an old chapel within its bounds†.

Produce.—With respect to produce, this parish is more than sufficient to supply itself, affording considerable quantities of bear, barley and meal, to the Aberdeen market, which forms the standard price here, after deducing the expence of carriage. Since the late sale of the York Buildings Company's lands,

and recover a penalty: whereas it is only enacted, that every person *craving* a registration, shall pay such a tax. A new regulation to this purpose appears to be a very proper improvement of our police.

† From the slightest observation, the deaths appear considerably to exceed the births, on account of numbers of old people, and persons decayed, both in health and circumstances, who retire to Stonehaven from the neighbouring parishes, when unable to hold possessions in the country. It is also observable, that notwithstanding the decay of manufactures for several years, already mentioned, yet the population of Stonehaven not only continued nearly the same, but also a considerable addition of buildings has spread out from it, into the neighbouring parish of Fetteresso, which is separated from it only by the Carron. This circumstance is to be explained from the state of the adjacent country. Upon the sale of the York Building Company's lands in the parishes of Dunnottar and Fetteresso, a considerable revolution took place, by ejected cottagers removing from the country to the town. And from the progress of improvement upon these estates, since that time, not only these persons find employment as day-labourers, but a number of strangers from other places have been drawn hither for the same purpose. All these have sought residence in Stonehaven; which has occasioned the increase of houses, and kept up the population without the assistance of manufactures or trade.

lands, enclosing and planting have been rapidly carried forward. Hard wood and larches are found to succeed best, particularly the latter. Scotch firs are most backward.—The most general crops of grain are bear and oats, with very little barley, and no wheat. Turnips and potatoes are likewise very much cultivated. The culture of turnips particularly, has been greatly extended, which here succeed remarkably well. Formerly they were chiefly used for fattening cattle; but, of late, the high prices have induced most people to use them for rearing. They are commonly sown in broad cast with most advantage, the soil being generally dry. A considerable quantity of clover and rye-grass is now sown; but not so much as is requisite for good farming; the horses being chiefly fed upon straw, and the ground not sufficiently rested after improvement by fallow and lime.

State of Property.—A very accurate map of this county was executed in the year 1774; by which it appears, that in the parish of Dunnottar there are 6418 Scotch acres; of which about 3600 may be supposed arable, the rest being green pasture and moor. The greatest part of the land lies open; and much of it is let in small parcels, from 4 to 10 acres. The rent is various, according to the different soils and the distance from Stonehaven, being from 8s. to 2l. per acre. Few farms are above 50l. rent. The whole rent of the parish is about 2100l. The heritors are 4 in number, of whom only 1 resides within its bounds.

Cattle.—The labour is here chiefly performed by horses; there being 188 work horses in the parish, and only 24 oxen. —There is only 1 farm in the parish with a flock of sheep; but they have never been attended with any success.

Prices

Prices of Labour.—The inhabitants of the country parish are mostly farmers and cottagers, with very few tradesmen; these latter commonly residing in Stonehaven. Of late, the practice, of farmers letting ground to cottagers who do their work, is much laid aside; and they either keep their servants in their own families, or depend upon labourers from the town. The ordinary wages of a farm servant or ploughman, living in his master's family, are from 6*l.* to 7*l.* per annum: The wages of a labourer, per day, from 10*d.* to 1*s.*, without victuals; and, in harvest, the same wages, with victuals. The women, in this neighbourhood, are generally employed in spinning flax to manufacturers in Aberdeen and Montrose, as well as Stonehaven, by which they gain, in ordinary times, about 3*s.* per week. But of late, the price of spinning has so much advanced, by the increased demand, that many reach as high as 4*s.* per week. Of consequence, the wages of women servants are also raised to about 2*l.* 10*s.*, and 3*l.* per annum, and 1*l.* for harvest work, when engaged for by itself.

Poor.—Since the introduction of improvements in land, and the establishment of manufactures in this neighbourhood, the number of poor in Stonehaven has greatly increased; partly owing to the cottagers and old people being banished from the country around, and repairing to the town; and partly to the luxury too commonly introduced by high wages among labourers and tradesmen; so that they still rise in their expences above the proportion of their gains. The number of poor now receiving alms in this parish is 71, of whom 25 are resident in the country, and 46 in the town. The annual sum expended upon them, of public charity, is about 50*l.*, of which 32*l.* arises from the weekly collections at the church, upon an average of several years past; and the rest from interest

terest of a sum funded for their benefit, and the several incidents in the parish, such as fines, proclamation of banns, and burials. In the country, the poor, being generally sober and industrious, earn a large share of their own maintenance. In the town, besides relief from the public funds, the poor receive frequent supplies from charitable persons, in private, otherwise a legal assessment would be necessary; which has never yet taken place in this part of the country.

Ecclesiastical State and School.—The established clergyman, by a late augmentation, has a living of about 115*l.* value, besides a glebe, which might rent at about 8*l.* The church was rebuilt in 1782, and the manse in 1786. In Stonehaven there are 2 dissenting meetings, one of the qualified Episcopalians of the Church of England; the other of Scotch Episcopalians*; to each of which belong about 150 souls.—The parish school is placed in Stonehaven, where there is a very considerable number of scholars, having sometimes amounted to 100. The salary and emoluments may be about 40*l.*; and in some years have amounted to 50*l.* in proportion to the number of scholars, and the activity of the teacher †.

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Roads.

* The Episcopal nonjurant principle was most prevalent in this neighbourhood, for many years after the late rebellions, owing to attachment to the forfeited MARISCHAL family. But the spirit of that sect has here subsided, as well as in other places; and the people of the different communions live together in the greatest harmony. As an instance of the liberality of mind subsisting among them, in the year 1782, when the parish church was rebuilding, the clergyman, with the congregation, had access to the qualified EPISCOPAL meeting-house, to perform divine service; and the two congregations were blended at each of the services.

† There are few objects, that merit more of the public attention than the education of youth, and the improvement of our schools, which, in general, throughout Scotland, are in a lamentable situation. It would seem, that by attempting to

Roads.—Two highways pass through this parish; the one directly for Perth, the other being the post road from Edinburgh along the coast, by Dundee, Arbroath, and Montrose; which two roads, uniting at Stonehaven, are continued in one to Aberdeen. It must be acknowledged, that no highways in Scotland are in worse condition; the statute labour having been very imperfectly applied, although there is reason to believe, it would have been tolerably sufficient for their support, if commuted for money; the country being populous, and there being no great towns to occasion heavy carriages. The same remark may be applied to the greatest part of this country. But, by the ruinous state into which the highways have fallen, the county have become sensible of the necessity of turnpikes, for which an application is resolved to be made to parliament next session, as well as for a commutation of the statute labour.

Castle.—The CASTLE of DUNNOTTAR, now in ruins, is the only antiquity, in this parish, deserving particular attention. It is situated on a perpendicular rock, level on the top, of several acres extent, projecting into the sea, and almost separated from the land by a very deep chasm. By this situation, it forms one of the most majestic ruins in Scotland. From some old papers still extant †, it appears, that upon this rock was formerly situated the parish church; and that the fortress

was

to make them all *Latin* schools, their end is much lost. Perhaps the erection of only a few of these, with an annual visitation of the whole, by the Commissioners of Supply and Presbytery of the bounds, would be attended with the best effects. These visitors might also have the power of fixing and augmenting the salary each year, to be assessed upon the respective parishes, according to the merit of the teacher.

† These papers are in the custody of Mr. KEITH of RAVELSTONE, who can give a particular account of this place.

was built there, during the contest between the parties of BRUCE and BALIOL, by an ancestor of the Marischal family; who acquired this right, upon condition of building a parish church in a more convenient place, which probably occasioned a translation to the present situation. Before the use of artillery, this castle, from its situation, must have been altogether impregnable†; but, by the modern art of war, could be easily

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approached,

† Its great reputation for strength gave occasion to a circumstance which rendered it very remarkable. The REGALIA of SCOTLAND (the crown, sceptre and sword), were deposited here, in the year 1661, to preserve them from the English army, which over-ran this country during the civil wars of that period. Being lodged in this place by order of the Privy Council of Scotland, Earl MARISCHAL, proprietor of the castle, obtained from the public a garrison, with an order for suitable ammunition and provisions. He, joining the King's forces in England, appointed GEORGE OGILVY of BARRAS, a neighbouring proprietor, who had been officer for several years in the King's service, to be lieutenant governor of the castle. This trust Mr. Ogilvy maintained with the greatest resolution. For after all the other forts and places of strength in Scotland were reduced by the English army, a body of troops, under the command of Lambert, sat down before Dunottar. It was first summoned to surrender in November 1651, and repeatedly afterwards during the course of the winter. About the beginning of May following, the siege was converted into a blockade. And though Governor OGILVY was in the greatest straits for provisions and ammunition, with a most scanty garrison, and though he received orders from the Earl Marischal, by that time a prisoner in London, to deliver up the place, and was repeatedly urged by the Chancellor of Scotland, and others, to convey away the regalia to some secure place in the Highlands, and thereafter capitulate; yet he still held out, till pressed by famine, and by the mutiny of the garrison, and having found means to convey the regalia privately to the clergyman of Kintrieff, in which parish Mr. Ogilvy's property chiefly lay, he at last capitulated upon honourable terms. The English, not finding the regalia, as they expected, were highly disappointed, and shut up the Governor and his wife close prisoners for a year, using every severity or allurements for years afterwards, to induce them to a discovery: But in vain. Mr. Ogilvy continued his fidelity during all the interval, till the restoration of Charles II.; when, addressing him, he made known his trust, and received orders to deliver the regalia to the

Earl

approached, and commanded on every side. In the year 1685, Dunnottar Castle was employed as a place of confinement for a body of Presbyterians, to the number of 167 men and women, who had been seized at different times in the west of Scotland, during the persecution under Charles II.; and after being some time prisoners in Edinburgh, were sent to Dunnottar, upon the news of Argyll's invasion. Here they were treated with the greatest cruelty, which is particularly described in *Woodrow's History*; the whole number being confined, during the warmest season of the year, in one vault, which is still to be seen entire, and called "*the Whig's Vault.*" A list of their names is upon record, in the Sheriff-court office of the county; and a grave stone, in the church-yard of Dunnottar, placed upon a number of them who died under confinement, narrates the fact. The false policy of those times requires no comment: And it must afford satisfaction to every liberal mind to reflect, that the principles of toleration are now fully established; which not only secure the rights of conscience to every individual, but also tend, in a high degree, to preserve the peace of society, if not abused and perverted by factious and designing men.

Character.

Earl Marischal, who granted a receipt for them, which is in the custody of the family of Barras at this time.

For all this steady service to the Crown, attended in its consequences with many years confinement, and much loss of property, Governor Ogilvy received no farther mark of royal favour, or reward, but the title of *Baronet*, and a new coat of arms, expressive of the action, as the motto bears, "*PRÆCLARUM REGI ET REGNO SERVITIUM;*" while some other persons, of higher interest, claiming merit on the same ground, received ample honours and emoluments. The whole original letters, relating to the siege of Dunnottar, and the preservation of the regalia, are in the possession of Sir DAVID OGILVY, present proprietor of BARRAS, in this parish.

Character.—The labouring people in the country, in general, are very sober and industrious. Those in the town, are of the same character as in other towns along this coast. It is to be regretted, that the depopulation of the country, by banishing cottagers into towns, has so much prevailed every where of late; by which the breed of men is enervated, their morals corrupted, and the strength of the state impaired. It is from the temperate and healthy family of the country labourer, or tradesman, and not from the loathsome sink of a town, that the race is to be sought, who are to cultivate our fields, or defend our property in the time of danger. In general, the character of charity may with great justice be ascribed to the body of the people here; so that no subject of distress can be long without relief voluntarily offered. And perhaps, in a *moral* view, the encouragement of THIS VIRTUE may be none of the least arguments against the establishment of *poor's rates*. For *the exercise of private charity, and compassion, must always decline where there is a public assessment.*

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NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF ECCLES.

(County of Berwick—Presbytery of Dunse—Synod of Merse
and Tiviotdale.

By the Rev. Mr. ADAM MURRAY, Minister.

Origin of the Name.

ECCLES is evidently derived from the word *Ecclesia*, which, in the Greek, signifies a congregation, assembly, or meeting of people. Sometimes it signifies the place where the meeting is held; and, in modern times, it is confined to an assembly of Christians meeting together for devotion and worship, and agrees with the Latin phrase, *Cætus sanctus Christianorum, aut ædes sacra*,—From an appendix to HOPE's *Minor Practics*, by the late JOHN SPOTTISWOOD, Esq. of Spottiswood, advocate, (which takes notice of all the religious houses in Scotland, at the time of the Reformation), it appears, that ECCLES, in the county of Berwick, was anciently the seat of the nunnery of the *Benardine*, or *Cistercian Nuns*. It was founded in the year 1154, according to HARDEN; but

COWPAR

COWPAR says, in his book, *anno dom. 1155, conventus monachorum secundo, venit ad Eccles**.

Extent and Situation.—The extent of this parish is very considerable, being no less than 8 miles from E. to W., and nearly 6 from N. to S. It lies adjacent to the county of Roxburgh, on the W; and contains above 11,000 acres of ground, scarcely one acre of which is waste or useless.

Soil and Improvement.—The soil is in general good, and consists of various kinds; loam, gravel, and deep clay. The clay soil is most prevalent; and as there is a considerable mixture of sand in it, when it is properly cultivated, and proper manure applied, it bears very luxuriant crops of every kind. It is the opinion of some writers, that lime is not fitted to improve a clay soil. The reverse of this, however, has been found in this parish. Without lime, we can neither have wheat nor grass; but with it, the most abundant crops of both. Indeed it requires a greater proportion of lime than soils of a lighter texture†. Towards the S. it is more inclined to gravel; and in several farms there is found a very rich loam, capable of producing almost any crop. Our crops, in general, when not hurt by a wet spring, or excessive drought,

* It was founded by Corispatrik Earl of March, father to Earl Waldave, and consecrated to the Virgin Mary. Ada de Frazer was prioress of Eccles, in the year 1296. There is in the public records, lib. 21. No. 537, a charter, whereby Marieta Hamilton, prioress of Eccles, disposes to Alexander Hamilton of Innerwick, the village and lands of Eccles, in the year 1569; which charter was confirmed by Queen Mary, at Edinburgh, the 11th of May the same year. This place was enacted into a temporal lordship, in favour of George Hume, afterwards Earl of Dunbar.

† The late Mr. Trotter of Belchester laid on no less than 90 bolls of shells to the English acre; and though the soil was a deep clay, it produced as rich grass as any in Berwickshire.

drought, or rains in summer, are very prolific; and perhaps there is no place in Scotland more distinguished for luxuriant crops of wheat, grass and pease, than Eccles. The surface, being, in general, low and flat, is apt to be injured in spring and autumn by excessive rains; and consequently the rising grounds are the best, because not exposed to the pernicious influence of stagnant water. The whole of the parish is arable. The farms are all enclosed in the very best modern manner; and on many estates, the hedge rows, which are all in a thriving state, when seen at a distance by the traveller, exhibit the appearance of a highly cultivated garden. Of late years, great improvements have been made in agriculture, through the whole county of Berwick; but in no parish have they been carried on with greater rapidity, and to greater advantage, than in this. Notwithstanding the distance from lime, which is above 14 English miles, the carts and horses of almost every farmer in the parish drive 6 days in the week, during the summer months; first for lime to the turnips, and afterwards for the fallow. In consequence of this industry, the farmers in general are wealthy and opulent, and live in a style and manner very different from their fathers †.

Agriculture.

†The writer of this article is old enough to remember, that butcher meat was seldom seen on a farmer's table, except on a Sunday. But how is the scene changed! No person now entertains better than the farmer, nor is there more neatness or elegance any where to be found, than in their houses; and as all this is the effect of industry, they have an unquestionable title to enjoy the fruits of their honest labour. Formerly, in this county, estates were made only by gentlemen in the law department. But the case is now entirely altered. There are, in the county of Berwick, above a dozen farmers, who, by their ingenuity and industry, have acquired very considerable estates; and there is every reason to believe, that many more will soon be in the same independent situation. The price of labour has kept pace with the progress of improvement. Twenty years ago, domestic men servants could have been had for 4l. and 5l. a year,

Agriculture and Produce.—If not prevented by rain in the spring, *oats* are sown in the month of March and beginning of April; and if the summer is favourable, they are commonly reaped from the end of August to the middle of September. *Barley* is generally sown in April and the beginning of May, and is reaped as soon as the oats. Pease, cold seed, if the weather admits, are sown in February and the beginning of March. When sown later, they seldom come to perfection. Wheat (a great quantity of which is produced in the parish), is generally sown upon fallow in the end of September. A number of farmers sow wheat after pease; and, if the land is clean, and the pease a good crop, it generally succeeds; though some are of opinion, that it is a species of husbandry not to be imitated. Wheat is also sometimes sown in the spring, after turnips; but the crop is seldom good, as it is generally very late, and neither gives much wheat nor flour. Although there are no lands in Berwickshire, that will produce turnips of greater size and quantity, than some farms in this parish, yet the most judicious farmers are of opinion, that they can turn their lands to greater account. The inconveniences attending turnips, on a clay soil, are the following: 1st, They cannot be taken off without injuring the land materially, as the water stands the whole winter in the tracks of the wheels, and the ground cannot be properly prepared for the next crop. 2^{dly}, It is absolutely impracticable to feed

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sheep

a year, they cannot now be got for less than 9l. and 10l. per annum. Female servants are in the same proportion. Formerly, they could have been got for 2l. a year; they have now got up to 4l. and 5l. The wages of men labourers at hedge and ditch, are from 1s. to 1s. 3d. a day, from the 1st of March to the 1st of November; and from 8d. to 10d. the rest of the year, except that, in time of harvest, they are from 1s. 6d. to 2s. a-day. Work, however, such as enclosing, and weeding turnip, &c. is generally done by the piece.

sheep upon such land, as the animals never have a dry bed, and are often up to the belly in mud and water. In these places of the parish where the soil is light, great profits are made by feeding sheep on turnips. They are generally let at from 4l. to 5l. the English acre; and the writer hereof has once and again sold them for 5 guineas.

Climate and Diseases.—The climate of Eccles, from its low and flat situation, is by no means the most healthy; and from the marsh *miasma*, (arising from rain water stagnating on the surface of a soil, chiefly clay), the people are peculiarly obnoxious to diseases of debility, such as agues, nervous fevers, chronic rheumatisms, &c. Within these last 20 years, these diseases were almost epidemic, among the lower classes of the people. Of late, however, they are much less frequent, and greatly milder. This may be attributed to two causes: 1st, To the advanced state of agricultural improvement, and especially draining of land; which, by drawing off the rain water that formerly stagnated on the surface, has rendered the soil dryer, and consequently more wholesome: 2^{dly}, To the lower classes being more comfortably clothed and lodged, and living more on animal food than formerly. That the influence of a damp climate is corrected by a generous mode of living, is abundantly evident from this circumstance, that while the poorer sort are often visited by the abovementioned diseases, the gentry and opulent farmers almost always escape. Among the causes, which have contributed to lessen the influence of the diseases peculiar to this climate, there is one, which the incumbent's personal knowledge of its happy effects will not allow him to omit; the wearing of FLANNEL next the skin. Nor is it difficult to account for this effect. Rheumatism proceeds evidently from the perspiration being obstructed on the surface of the body; and nothing but flannel will preserve this

this discharge uniform and equable, in a climate which is subjected to fogs, and to the vapours which arise from water stagnating on the surface of the ground. Could people be prevailed on universally to adopt this practice, it would do more to alleviate, if not extirpate nervous diseases, than the united powers of the whole *materia medica*.—The ravages made by the small pox were formerly very great; not less than a third part of all those infected being carried off by this malignant disease: But since the introduction of inoculation, which of late has become very general, the baneful influence of this disease has been greatly mitigated*.

River and Fish.—This parish has no river that runs through it, but the Tweed; which separates Scotland and England, washes the southern boundary, and affords a very lucrative salmon fishing, though at the distance of near 20 miles from the sea. The property belongs to the Earl of HOME.

Population.—In a survey made by Dr. Webster, about 40 years ago, the number of examinable persons in the parish of Eccles, was - - - - - 1240
And the number of souls, - - - - - 1489
From a very accurate survey of the present inhabitants, taken by the writer hereof, the number is not less than - - - - - 1780

Consequently, in the space of 40 years, there has been an increase of 291.

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* It is rare to hear of one dying out of many hundreds who submit to this salutary practice, while those families, who, from ignorance, obstinacy or prejudice, could not be prevailed upon to try the salutary experiment, have been punished by the loss of more than half their children. It is much to the honour of the gentlemen in this parish, that they have done every thing in their power to

As agriculture is the principal business carried on in the parish, the inhabitants are mostly employed in that particular branch. There is a considerable number of tradesmen, such as smiths, carpenters, and plough-wrights, who are all employed by the farmers, and are generally in easy circumstances. No man in this parish is unemployed; and there is rather a want of hands for labour, than a superfluity.

Abstract of Marriages †, Baptisms, and Burials, for 3 Years, viz. from the 1st of October 1789, to the 1st of October 1792.

	Baptif.	Marr.	Bur.
From 1. Oct. 1789 to ditto 1790,	80	10	23
From 1. Oct. 1790 to ditto 1791,	72	13	20
From 1. Apr. 1791 to 1. Apr. 1792,	86	16	22

Cattle, &c.—The number of cattle and ploughs in the parish is as follows :

Number

to reconcile the minds of the common people to this useful practice, by paying the expence of inoculating the children of the poor around them. In this way, they have done more to promote the practice, than either reason or eloquence could have effected.

† To account for the small number of registered marriages, it is to be observed, that the practice of marrying in a clandestine and irregular manner still subsists upon the Borders; and though the synod of Merse and Tiviotdale have done every thing in their power to repress it, yet it is still kept up by some members of the Church of England, who sacrifice the dignity of their profession to a little transient emolument.—There are also many more baptisms than these which are registered; but of late years, since the *tax of threepence* was paid to the King, over and above the usual fees of registration, many cannot be prevailed on to enrol their childrens names. The minister has done every thing in his power, to convince them of the propriety of the measure; but many individuals still continue obstinate and refractory.

Number of labouring horses,		Number of calves reared an-	
solely employed in the plough,	266	nually by ditto and labour-	
— ditto from 2 to 3 years old,	70	ers, - - - -	1000
— riding and carriage ditto,	50	Ditto of black cattle,	2838
— foals reared by the farmers,	200	— ploughs *,	133
	586		

Sheep and Wool.—Our farmers do not breed many sheep. This is owing to the nature of the soil, which often produces that baneful disease, well known by the name of the *rot*. The greatest proportion is consequently bought in, and fed off. The lambs are generally sold in the months of June, July, and August, and the ewes about Michaelmas and Martinmas. The wool of these sheep is not very valuable, as they are generally bought in from mountainous counties, such as Tweeddale and Lammermuir. Such wool sells from 10s. to 12s. per stone. As for the sheep purchased from Northumberland and *Bishoprick*, they are of a very superior kind. The wool of that staple generally sells from 18s. to one guinea per stone, and the carcase weighs from 70 lb. to 80 lb. There are only 2 farmers in the parish who are breeders of sheep; which turn out to great account. The sheep which they breed, are equal to any bred in Northumberland, both for weight and fineness of fleece; and, as a proof of this, 100 lambs, with the wool of the ewes, were sold for 100 guineas; and a considerable profit was made of them, both by the butcher and manufacturer.

Union of Farms.—About 25 or 30 years ago, the farms in the parish of Eccles were very small, and several gentlemen of

* There would be many more ploughs, if there was not a considerable quantity of land laid off in the best order, both for breeding and feeding.

of small estates farmed their own lands. At this period, little profit arose from agriculture; and it is only since farms were united, that great profits have been made. It is now to be feared, however, that farming is going to the opposite extreme; and the writer hereof cannot help thinking, that too great property, and too extensive farming, is a very great loss to any country. In the parish of Eccles, some farms are far too extensive, considering the good quality of the land. Some tenants possess above 900 acres, several 800, and scarcely can a farm of 50 or 60 acres be got for any rent. In land such as that of Eccles, there ought not to be a farm exceeding 300 acres. This quantity of land would support a family very decently, and besides afford an ample provision for their children; and, in the opinion of some, it is very improper to elevate men too high above their station. As many of our farmers have got a very narrow education, riches have often the unhappy effect of making them proud, and leading them to treat their superiors with insolence and contempt.

Rent and Proprietors, &c.—The rent of this parish, at present, is nearly 11,000*l.*; and it will advance considerably in a very short time, as some old leases, upon extensive estates, must soon expire. There is no farm, since the author has been minister of the parish, but what has been doubled in rent, and some of them have been tripled; and if grain and stock continue to hold the value they do at present, it would not be surprising, if, in the course of a few years, the rental of this parish should exceed 18,000*l.* or even 20,000*l.* per annum. There is a farm, near Eccles, that expires in a year or two, rented at 180*l.*, and it is credibly reported, that 480*l.* has been offered, and refused.—There are above 30 gentlemen, proprietors of estates; some of whom possess 1,400*l.*, many 800*l.* and 900*l.* per annum, many considerably less, and some small

heritors, who do not exceed 100l. per annum. Our tenants are in number 56; and many of our gentlemen retain as much land in their own hand, as accommodates their families with the necessaries of life.

Ecclesiastical State.—The incumbent has had great difficulty to ascertain the extent of the ancient *Nunnery*. It appears to have been nearly a square of 6 acres; extending rather farther to the S. and W. than to the E. and N. The only vestige remaining of it is two vaulted cells†, which the late Sir John Paterfon converted into two cellars, for holding wine, ale, &c.—The old church was a Gothic building, in the form of a cross, vaulted and covered with large flag stones, dedicated to St. Andrew, the tutelar saint of Scotland, and ornamented with a cross, and a very elegant steeple. The building might have stood for many centuries, and it was with the greatest difficulty it was taken down. But as it was too small to accommodate the inhabitants, the proprietors of the parish took it down about 20 years ago, and built a very handsome modern church on the same ground, 75 feet long,
by

† The burial ground contiguous to these vaults is all flagged with fine stone, 4 feet beneath the surface; which is a clear proof that there have been many more cells, of a similar kind to the former; and as the ground, when turned up, exhibits only a mixture of sand, lime, and earth, it appears to be nothing but the rubbish of the fallen vaults. It is said, that the principal entrance to the nunnery was from the W., where there was a very spacious gate, beautifully sculptured, and adorned with a variety of figures. Before the front door of the mansion house of Eccles, a stone coffin was dug out, above six feet long, and covered above with flag stones. As it had been buried above 200 years, every part of the body was reduced to ashes. As the inside of the stone was pretty smooth, and the whole portrait of the person visible (though in ashes), Sir John Paterfon had the curiosity to collect the whole, and (wonderful to tell!) it did not exceed in weight one ounce and a half!

by 35 broad; where 1000 people are very conveniently seated. It was built after the model of the Chapel of Ease in Edinburgh, is in every respect well finished, and is, without dispute, the best and handsomest country church in Berwickshire. The present incumbent was the first minister who preached in it. The manse and offices were built at the same time. They were removed from the place where they formerly stood, which was a little to the S. W. of the mansion-house of Eccles; and as the heritors would not consent to the removal, unless Sir John was at the whole expence of the new buildings, he acceded to the conditions. The glebe was exchanged at the same time, and placed very conveniently in the front of the manse. It consists of rather more than 20 acres of good arable ground, and is well worth as many pounds Sterling. As the stipend, when the present minister entered to the charge, did not exceed 72l., every thing included, he was obliged to pursue for an augmentation. The Lords of Session granted one to the extent of 30l.: But, what is extremely hard on him, although it is above 18 years since it was obtained, the allocation is not yet finally settled. Several of the heritors, indeed, paid by the first allocation, but many more have refused payment; and there are arrears, at this moment due, to the extent of several hundred pounds.

Poor.—The poor, that are rated in the books, amount to the number of 30 persons; and the parish is assessed in 120l. per annum for their support. As for the industrious poor, when families may want occasional support, they are relieved, either from the money collected on the Sabbath-day, or by the generosity of the gentlemen in the parish. The author mentions it to their honour, that on a proper representation of distress, he has always found them liberal and beneficent.

Antiquities.—From our vicinity to England, it might have been expected, that we should have had many memorials of those bloody contests, which formerly subsisted between the neighbouring kingdoms. We have only, however, one of this kind. It is a monument erected to one of the PERCIES, who fell in a bloody engagement with one of the rival family of DOUGLAS. It consists of a large square stone, full 9 feet above the surface. On one side of the square appears the greyhound, which is the Percie's crest; on another, the figure of a naked man, in rude sculpture; and, on the other two sides, the ancient sword and battle-ax are pourtrayed †. It stands nearly a mile to the N. E. of the village of Eccles.

Disadvantages.—Among the natural defects in the situation of Eccles, must first be mentioned the want of *running water*. In times of severe drought, our brooks and rivulets are often entirely dried up; and our farmers are sometimes obliged to drive their cattle to the Tweed, a distance of between 2 and 3 miles. Another disadvantage under which we labour, is our distance from coals and lime. We are obliged to bring both these articles from Northumberland, which is not less remote than from 14 to 18 miles. Hence fuel becomes a most expensive article in housekeeping; and the distress of the lower ranks, in severe winters, is unspeakably great. Our distance from markets is also another inconvenience. Our

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farmers

† There is no inscription whatever to be traced on this stone; so that it is impossible to ascertain its antiquity. It must, however, have been considerably prior to the Union. The late Sir John Paterson wished to have it removed near the mansion of Eccles, but found the thing impracticable. The monument is fixed in a large stone basis, which it penetrates; and the workmen followed it some feet into the earth, without being able to get to the foundation. The place where it stands is called *Dead Riggs*, from the great number of the slain; and so dreadful was the slaughter, that tradition reports, that a little streamlet, in its neighbourhood, *ran with blood for 24 hours*!

farmers cannot depend on a ready sale, and quick return of money, in any market nearer than Berwick, which is distant almost 20 miles ; and it is to that place, accordingly, that they commonly send all their wheat and barley. Kelso, indeed, is within 6 miles of Eccles ; but as no corn merchants attend there, to buy grain for exportation, the only purchasers are country millers, who buy it for internal consumption, and with whom it is generally disagreeable, and often unsafe to deal. The circumstance, which enables us to struggle under these inconveniences, is the goodness of our public roads ; and the gentlemen of the county deserve high praise for the attention they have paid to this important particular, and the regulations they have made for keeping the roads in a state of good repair.

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NUMBER XVIII.

PARISH OF DUNNET.

(County and Presbytery of Caithness—Synod of Caithness and Sutherland.)

By the Rev. Mr. THOMAS JOLLY, Minister.

Origin of the Name.

THERE is no certainty as to the origin of the name of this parish. Some suppose it to be from the Gaelic. In that language it is called *Dunnivet*, which is probably taken from some part or property in the Head-land, that being the most remarkable place in the parish*. The names of many places in the parish, however, are clearly of Danish extraction; as *Ratter*, *Syster*, *Reaster*, *Holm* (since called *Ham*), *Sunnigoe*, *Ashigoe*, *Gettriegöe*, *Alshigoe*, &c.

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Extent,

* What renders this probable, is, that the S. W. part of Dunnet Head, bears a strong resemblance to the ground, upon which the Castle of Dunnottar (a name not unfamiliar in sound to Dunnet), in the county of Mearns, is built.

Extent, Situation, and Soil.—The parish is about 10 miles long, from N. W. to S. E ; and 4 miles broad, about the middle, but much narrower towards the extremities. It is one of the most northern parishes in Scotland ; and indeed the extremity of Dunnet Head, by the latest observations, is found to be somewhat farther N. than even Duncansbay Head, or John o' Groat's. The soil is, in general, of a light nature, with little stiff clay, or deep loam. On the W. it is sandy, and towards the E. it is chiefly a light black soil ; but not without the exception of several farms, which are rich clay. The far greater part of the parish is uncultivated, and, indeed, a great part of it unfit for cultivation.

Dunnet Head.—DUNNET HEAD is an extensive promontory on the W. It consists of several hills, but none of them of considerable height, interspersed with vallies, in which there is a great extent of pasture for small cattle or sheep. It was formerly well stored with the latter ; which are said to have succeeded well : But as these were destroyed by the introduction of a disease, it has, for many years past, turned to little account to the neighbouring proprietors, who have it in common. Dunnet Head presents very bold rocks, towards the sea, from 100 to 400 feet high, through its whole circuit, which is not less than 9 miles, exclusive of 2 miles of low land, by which it is joined to the rest of the parish. There is no part of it inhabited. The soil is chiefly moss, running on free-stone, or sandy clay. The free-stone, which is the only kind of stone found there, is exceedingly hard, and seems to be very little affected by the influence of the air, as appears by the corner stones of a small steeple, adjoining the church, which still bear the original marks of the iron, though it has not stood, by the best accounts, less than 200 years. Such an extent of durable free-stone quarry, would, in some parts of
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the kingdom, be a treasure; but here it yields nothing, except a small rent to one of the neighbouring proprietors, for the privilege of quarrying millstones; an article, in which the greater part of the county are supplied from thence. There are several small lochs in different parts of the Head, which furnish water, sufficient for a mill, through the greater part of the year.

Sea Coast, Kelp, Lakes, &c.—On the E. of Dunnet Bay, there is a beautiful level sand, for two miles along the shore, over which the sea ebbs and flows, above a quarter of a mile. But as there is commonly a great breach upon the shore, very few shell fish are found in it, and these of little value. The sand, above high-water mark, is loose; and by being exposed to driving, from the suction of the bay, frequently hurts the neighbouring lands. Adjoining to that, there is a tract of barren sand, nearly 2 miles in diameter, which is said to have been arable ground, or rich pasture, some time about the end of last century. The ruins of cottages are now appearing in different parts of it; but they seem to be of a much older date. The part of the parish to the E. of Dunnet Head, along the Pentland Frith, has a low rocky shore, which, on an average, may produce about 20 tons of kelp per annum. A few tons may likewise be made on the shores to the N. of Dunnet Bay. The other uncultivated grounds are chiefly moss and moor; and of the last a great part is capable of cultivation. There is scarcely an eminence in the parish, except in Dunnet Head, that deserves the name of a hill. Three lakes, each about a mile in length, and half as much in breadth, supply the principal mills with water. A few small trouts are found in one of these; the other two, being in the vicinity of the sand, are frequented only by a few eels.

Tides.

Tides.—The current in Pentland Frith is exceedingly strong during spring tides, so that no vessel can stem it. The flood tide runs, from W. to E., at the rate of 10 miles an hour, with new and full moon. It is then high water at *Scarfskerry* (whence the ferry boat crosses from Dunnet for Orkney), at 9 o'clock. Immediately as the water begins to fall upon the shore, the current turns to the W.: But the strength of the flood is so great in the middle of the frith, that it continues to run E. till about twelve. These contiguous currents, running with amazing velocity, in opposite directions, have a strange appearance from the land, in a day favourable for observing them. With a gentle breeze of westerly wind, about 8 o'clock in the morning, the whole frith seems as smooth as a sheet of glass, from Dunnet Head to Hoy Head, in Orkney. About 9 the sea begins to be in a rage, for about 100 yards, to appearance, off the Head, while all without that continues smooth as before. This appearance gradually advances towards the frith, and along the shore to the E., though the effects of it are not much felt upon the shore, till it reach *Scarfskerry Head*, which is about 3 miles distant from Dunnet Head, as the land between these two points forms a considerable bay. By 2 o'clock, the whole frith seems to be in a rage. About 3 in the afternoon, it is low water on the shore, when all the former phenomena are reversed; the smooth water beginning to appear on the land, and advancing gradually till it reaches the middle of the frith. From the strength of the tides, and the surprising velocity of these contiguous currents, in opposite directions, Pentland Frith is a very dangerous navigation to strangers, especially if they approach near the land. But the natives, along the coast, are so well acquainted with the direction of the tides, that they can take advantage of every one of these currents, to carry them safe to one harbour or another. Hence very few accidents happen, but from want of skill or knowledge

ledge of the tides. The safest way for strangers is either to take a pilot on board, or to keep at a considerable distance from the land *. The frith is said to be about 12 miles broad, opposite to Dunnet, though no exact measurement has probably been taken.

Harbours.—Though Dunnet Bay runs far into the land, it affords no shelter for any vessel upon the N. side of it, which is contiguous to Dunnet Head, as it is exposed to the W. But on the Pentland Frith, to the E. of the Head, there are several very secure havens for boats or small craft. The haven of *Brough*, close by the Head, is well sheltered from every wind but

* In spring 1791, there was a vessel from Dantzic, of about 500 or 600 tons burden, passing through the frith, on a voyage to Liverpool. The master, finding the current *against* him, in the middle of the frith, when about 8 or 9 miles E. of Dunnet Head, bore in for the shore, where he fell in with the last of the ebb, called by the people here *the wester birth*. The wind was about N. W. The current brought him up past Scarfskerry; but he was so near the shore, that the people on land were much alarmed for his safety. Soon after, a boat went out, and offered him a pilot, which he refused; on which they advised him to stand some miles out to sea. When he came up close with Dunnet Head, he tacked, and stood out only about a mile to sea. Finding the current strong to the W., he thought it unnecessary to continue longer on that tack, as he knew it was not near low water in the frith; upon which he tacked again, and stood to the W., hoping all danger was over. He cleared Dunnet Head; but by that time it had begun to flow upon the shore; and the easter birth setting in, soon reached him with considerable strength. Upon finding his vessel carried to the E., by the stern, and fast approaching the head land, he attempted to tack, but found that impossible, as the wind and current, being nearly in the same direction, the vessel would not answer the helm. He then attempted to *wear*, but with no better effect. The people on shore observed, that nothing, in that situation, could have saved him, but dropping an anchor over the stern; and the moment he found that hold, so as to turn the vessel, slipping the cable, and standing to sea. Neglecting that precaution, he was driven ashore and wrecked, and that through mere ignorance, without the least stress of weather.

but the N. W.; and a small expence might render it secure against it too, by throwing a pier from the land, to a large *clett*, or out-standing rock, which is about 100 yards from the shore. Nature has already done that in part, by forming a barr, or ridge of large stones, out to that rock; but that barrier is not sufficiently high, to prevent the seas breaking over it, at high water. Mr. KNOX, in the course of his tour, was much taken with that harbour, and seemed to think the executing such a pier, an object worthy of attention. This could be effected with the greater ease, as there would be no occasion for quarrying a single stone, or for carrying one above 200 yards. The space to the E. of the pier, being cleared of stones, would form an excellent harbour for small vessels; the entrance to which is about 3 fathoms deep at low water, and without any bar. Brough has, besides, the advantage of being very contiguous to the best fishing ground for cod and ling; and hence is not only capable of being rendered a safe harbour, but the most commodious fishing station in the parish, or even on this side of the Pentland Frith. The harbour of *Ham* or *Holm*, is scarcely a mile to the east of Brough. It might also be rendered safe for small vessels, at little expence. There is a superficial pier erected there already; and, the ground within it being pretty well cleared of stones, vessels of, or below 100 tons, find no inconveniency of loading or unloading a cargo, or even lying there for weeks in the summer season. It has, however, the inconveniency of a bar, or ridge of sand and gravel, across the entrance of it, upon which there is not sufficient depth of water for vessels in any great burden, but with spring tides. *Scarfskerry* is a narrow creek between two rocks, and affords a convenient landing for boats with easy weather, but is not capable of being much improved.

Fish.—Dunnet Bay affords excellent flounders, and haddocks; and is sometimes frequented by shoals of herrings, in July and August. But their continuance in the bay, or even their coming to it, has hitherto been reckoned so uncertain, that no extensive herring fishery has been attempted. Besides these, great quantities of *cuddins*, as they are called here, or small saiths, are usually caught in the summer season. Pentland Frith abounds with excellent cod and ling; not of a very large size, but remarkably thick and of a good quality. The haddocks and flounders are taken with small lines, mounted with 5 or 6 score of hooks, which are set, and left in the sea commonly through the night. The cuddens are taken with a rod and line, to which is fixed a single hook, and for the most part in shallow water, or near the shore. The cod and ling are found principally in deep water, in the tide way, and taken with a line of 50 or 60 fathoms, to which a single hook is fixed, and a lead weight or sinker. There are various other kinds of fish occasionally taken, as turbot, skate, whittings, &c. In harvest, too, amazing shoals of small fish, called *fellacks* (which are no other than the young of saiths, and some species of the cod), frequent the shores, and are often taken in a small sweep net, to the quantity of several bushels at once. There are scarcely any shell fish to be found here, but lobsters, crabs, and limpets.

Birds.—A great variety of sea fowls frequent the rocks of Dunnet Head; though, as the highest rocks front the W. and N. W., they are not so numerous as they would otherwise probably be. There is a bird, called a *layer*, here, that hatches in some parts of the rock. It is reported, that it is only to be found in Dunnet Head, Hoy Head in Orkney, in Wales, and in the Cliffs of Dover (where it is said to be known by the name of the *puffin*), and in no other place in Britain.

The old ones are little esteemed ; but the young are reckoned extremely delicate. As there is no way, however, of getting to their nests, but by descending from the top of the rock, by the assistance of a rope, no person in this parish has attempted to catch any of them for many years past. A few eagles, a variety of hawks, ravens, crows, and wild pigeons, likewise hatch in the rocks. The other birds most common in the parish, are plovers and grouse ; but the latter are not in great abundance.

Wild Quadrupeds.—Otters are occasionally found in Dunnet Head ; and seals often frequent the shores, but not in so great numbers as in many other parts of the county. The only ravenous animals here are foxes and weasels. There are a good many hares in different parts ; and the sandy ground, in the neighbourhood of Dunnet Bay, would make a good rabbit warren, if they were preserved : But, as they expose the sand to driving, by breaking the ground, the proprietor allows every person to shoot them, without restriction. It has not, however, been possible wholly to extirpate them, though they do great mischief. Some of them have found their way into Dunnet Head, where they would probably multiply rapidly, were they not a prey to the foxes and eagles.

Climate and Diseases, &c.—The climate varies according to the distance from the sea. Along the Pentland Frith the air is generally temperate in summer, and cold and sharp in winter ; but snow seldom continues upon the ground, for any great length of time. Towards the S. E., or more inland parts of the parish, the frosts are much keener in winter ; and the corns are more liable to be hurt by hoar frosts, in spring and autumn. The village, or rather farm, of DUNNET, situated to the E. of Dunnet Head, and to the N. E. of the Bay, has a beau-

beautiful exposure and declivity to the S., and is reckoned an exceedingly healthy situation; yet there are few well attested instances of longevity in it. This may be owing to the people's mode of life. They have all of them very small farms; and most of them depend upon the sea principally for their subsistence. By these means, they observe little regularity in diet, being sometimes obliged to live chiefly on vegetables, and at other seasons, confined perhaps wholly to animal food. They are besides frequently exposed to cold and damps, and sometimes, like other seafaring people, to excessive fatigue, which brings on rheumatisms and coughs. These are no doubt greatly increased, by their being ill accommodated in lodging. Their houses are for the most part erected of turf, exceedingly low and ill aired. Nor have they that regard to cleanliness which is necessary for health. They are, however, improving in that respect.

Population.—All the information, that is desirable on this article, cannot be obtained, from the want of authentic records. That of baptisms is the only register, that has been kept with any degree of accuracy. Indeed, the principal register of the parish is said to have been destroyed, or carried off by a clerk, in revenge of a difference between him and some of the heritors. There were in the parish, on the 1st of March 1791, males 645, and females 754*; in all, 1399 souls.

The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was 1235

Hence there is an increase of $\quad - \quad 164$

I i 2

The

* The great disproportion, between the males and females, is probably owing to the number that enlisted with different recruiting parties, during the American war; besides a great many that have gone to sea. And being in the vicinity of Orkney, where the Hudson's Bay fleet generally call, very few years pass,

The number of householders was	-	-	-	300
———— of married men (besides widowers),	-	-	-	243
The annual average of births for the last 5 years, is	-	-	-	40 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto, from 1. Jan. 1752, to 1. Jan. 1757 *,	-	-	-	39 $\frac{1}{2}$
Difference, only	-	-	-	1 $\frac{1}{2}$

Occupations.—In the inland parts, the people depend chiefly on their farms for subsistence: But along the coast, their chief support is from the sea. And there are scarcely any handicraftsmen in the parish, who do not occasionally follow the profession of farmers, or fishermen †.—The women are generally employed in spinning linen yarn, which they make of a good quality, though they cannot do a great quantity in a day.

pass, without some young men going thither. A few have likewise gone of late to the south of Scotland, in quest of employment: But these last cannot have much affected the proportion, as several females have also gone thither, with the same view.

* It is generally believed, that the parish has increased in population within these 40 years; and Dr. Webster's report affords a proof of it. But it would appear, from the above averages of baptisms, that the difference is not considerable. Yet there are unquestionably great tracts of common that have been peopled within that period.

† The employment of fishing seems to be a great bar to industry in other branches, as it partakes too much of the nature of sport, as well as of labour. The success never being known till the experiment be made, one day's successful fishing will prevent a week's application to any other business. Women, when hired by the day, draw from 4d. to 6d., according to the work in which they are employed.—The wages to a man, per annum, is about 45s.; and his allowance for food, is 3 bolls of oat-meal, at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ stone per boll, and 3 bolls of bear-meal, at 9 stone per boll. A woman servant's wages and allowance are about one half of the former. The wages of servants, however, are upon the increase. Men, hired by the day, draw 8d. without maintenance: But as most of the inhabitants are fishermen, it is very difficult to procure day labourers.

a day. Some of them have of late begun to spin on two-handed wheels, and are making astonishing progress with them.

Agriculture.—It is supposed, that there are about 1600 acres in cultivation in the parish. The only grain cultivated is oats and bear, with a very small quantity of pease. Of late, however, considerable quantities of potatoes have been raised, particularly in the farm of Dunnet, where the soil is well adapted to that root, the benefit of which was much felt in the late bad years. Small quantities of lint are raised also in different parts. The quantity of grain raised is sufficient to support the inhabitants, and admit of an export of about 500 bolls of bear, and the same quantity of oatmeal, per annum. Of the householders, 194 occupy small farms. Most of these have one plough, and a few of them two; but the farms of some are so small, that two or three of them unite in furnishing cattle, to labour their joint possessions. There are 190 ploughs in the parish, besides 14 on 4 farms laboured by the proprietors*. The tenants ploughs are generally drawn by 4 horses, or oxen, yoked a breast. That practice appears ridiculous to strangers: But a better acquaintance with the people's circumstances would lead to a more favourable opinion. The cattle are very small and ill fed; and hence their strength is not sufficient for drawing a plough, if they were yoked in any manner, where part might have an opportunity of throwing the whole burden occasionally upon the rest. This practice, however, is attended with the inconveniency, that one of the cattle must walk on the plowed ground. Of this some

* These 4 farms contain about 220 acres; which, being taken from the above 1600 acres, the remaining 1380, laboured by 190 ploughs, is about $7\frac{1}{4}$ acres per plough, on an average.

some are beginning to be sensible, and are substituting 3 cattle a-breast, instead of 4; endeavouring to get these of a better quality. The great loss this parish sustains, in respect of agriculture, is from the scarcity of grass and provender; a defect that can never be supplied, till the inhabitants see the propriety of cultivating artificial grass, and green crops. Nor would it be difficult to persuade them of the advantage of these, were it not for their rooted prejudice against winter herding. So far as they are not prevented by that prejudice, they are beginning to aspire to the making of small inclosures about their houses, and sowing them with clover and rye-grass. Twenty years ago, there were not above 15 carts in the parish; and now there are more than 4 times that number. Progress in improvement, however, must be slow, while the farms are so small, and such a number of wretched labouring cattle kept upon them.

Black Cattle, Horses and Sheep.—As the parish is not well supplied with pasture, few cows can be kept by the farmers; and hence there is seldom any cattle reared for exportation. A supply of horses from Orkney is needed annually. By the way, the greater part of Caithness, excepting the Highland parishes of Latheron, Halkirk, and Reay, is supplied with horses from Orkney; and yet, what may appear strange, very few breeding mares are kept in that county. They annually import several hundred colts, of 1 or 2 years old, from Strathnaver and the high lands of Caithness, and export their own horses to Caithness, about the age of 6 or 8 years. That plan they follow so regularly, that, in some parts of Orkney, a *dead horse* is thought a *curiosity*. Unhappily that is not the case in Caithness, and particularly in the parish of Dunnet, where numbers every year fall a sacrifice to age and poverty. The greater part of the horses, imported from Ork-

ney, are landed at Scarfskerry, about the Lammas season. The same boats that carry over the colts, generally return loaded with horses*. There are about 500 sheep in the parish, of a very indifferent quality; a very inconsiderable number indeed, considering the extent of pasture in Dunnet Head. But as the proprietors have not, for many years, paid any attention to that object, it is not possible for the poor farmers to reap much advantage from it; as the sheep there must be exposed to many accidents, from the height of the rocks, and from the ravenous animals, if not properly attended.

Heritors and Rent.—The parish belongs to 3 heritors; and 2 of these reside occasionally in it. The valued rent is 230*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* Scotch; and the real rent about 95*l.* Sterling.

Ecclesiastical State†.—The value of the living, is about 91*l.* Sterling, including the glebe. Sir JOHN SINCLAIR of ULBSTER, Bart. is patron. The parish church is an ancient building;

* It has not been possible to ascertain an average, either of the export or import, with accuracy. But, from the best information that can be got on the subject, about 300 colts are annually imported into Orkney; and somewhat more than half as many horses returned. Such as are carried to the north isles of Orkney, seldom return, but are allowed to remain there, till they die of old age, as in other parts of the kingdom.

† Mr. James Fullerton was minister at the Revolution; and was succeeded by Mr. George Oswald, some time before the end of last century. Dr. James Oswald succeeded his father in 1727; and being removed to Methven, in Perthshire, in 1750, was succeeded by Dr. George Trail; to whom the present incumbent was settled assistant and successor, in 1784, and succeeded to the charge in 1785.

building*; but it is neither commodious, nor in good repair. The last manse was built in 1763. But as the undertaker had only 1000l. Scotch for executing the work, it was never properly finished. As the incumbent, however, had a numerous family, he found it convenient to give the old manse some repair, at his own expence. The present incumbent had a small allowance from the heritors, for giving it a farther repair. Neither the manses, however, nor the offices, are in good condition. There are no sectaries, excepting 2 or 3 families of Seceders.

School and Poor.—The schoolmaster's salary is only 6l. 13s. 4d. Sterling; and, as the emoluments from teaching, and other perquisites, are inconsiderable, it is not worth the acceptance of a person of education. The present teacher's knowledge extends only to reading English, writing, and the common rules of arithmetic. The parish has the benefit of a Society spinning school. And as the different parts of it are much detached from one another, it has been found convenient to have 2 or 3 private schools, in the remotest corners. At these different schools there have been, for the last 3 years, generally about 90 scholars, male and female. The only language taught and spoken is English.—As the people are, in general, in low circumstances, the weekly collections for the poor

* It is not known at what period it was built; but from tradition, and from other circumstances, it was probably some time before the Reformation. There is a grave-stone in the church-yard, the inscription of which has a strong resemblance to the story of the unfortunate Miss Rae, which was so much the subject of conversation some years ago. The inscription is,—“ Here lies
“ Margaret Wallace, daughter of William Wallace, who was murdered by
“ Alexander Calder, son of Alexander Calder in Dunnet, because he could not
“ have her in marriage. August the 29th, in the year of God 1635.”—There is still a tradition, that the murder was committed on a Sunday morning; and that the murderer, by fleeing to Orkney, escaped punishment.

poor are exceedingly small. Hence they would have been very destitute, had it not been for the liberality of the late Rev. Dr. James Oswald, who was a native of the parish, and who settled an annuity of 20l. Sterling, for charitable purposes in it.

Antiquities.—There are few natural curiosities in the parish, excepting 2 or 3 caves, in the rocks of Dunnet Head, and one at Ham. But as the access to them is difficult, they have not been sufficiently examined to permit a description. None of them, however, excepting the last, are supposed to be of great extent. Vestiges of 3 chapels are still visible. One of these is situated in Dunnet Head, and supposed to have been a place of penance. Two inner cells of Picts houses are still entire at Ham. These appear to be divided only by a stone partition, 3 or 4 feet thick, probably *bearted* with earth*.

Character.—The inhabitants are, in general, a sagacious people; and, excepting in so far as they are prevented by

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their

* The entrances are about 8 feet asunder, and seem to have led from 2 outer circular apartments, of about 17 or 18 feet diameter, which appear to have had a communication from the one to the other. The entrance to the largest cell is near 30 inches wide; but as it is much filled up with earth, it is not known what the height of it may have originally been. The cell is about 9 feet long, and 6 feet wide about the middle; but becomes narrower towards the farther extremity, which is circular. The roof is at present about 5 feet from the earth in the floor. The walls are constructed of large rough stones, apparently without any kind of cement. Every course in the walls projects a little over that immediately below it, till they approach within about 3 feet of one another. That space is covered by a course of strong stone lintels. The smaller cell is finished in the same manner. And the whole is covered with earth, which forms a beautiful green mount, about 8 or 9 feet above the level of the adjacent field.

their vicinity to the sea, appear to want nothing but a sufficient spur to make them industrious. They have not yet, however, overcome all the bad habits that unlimited services, upon the farms of the proprietors, naturally produce. But as that pernicious servitude is now almost wholly abolished, there is every reason to hope, that the most happy effects will soon appear. And as some of the tenants are obtaining moderate leases, and beginning to improve their small possessions, it is not to be doubted, that they will enjoy a degree of independence and comfort unknown to their predecessors.

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PARISH OF WATTIN.

(County and Presbytery of Caithness—Synod of Caithness and Sutherland.)

By the Rev. Mr. JOSEPH TAYLOR, Minister.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

WHENCE or how this parish obtained the name of Wattin, cannot be determined with any certainty. Perhaps it was from the large lake of that name, as those who pretend to an acquaintance with the Danish say, that the word *Wattin*, in that language, is the same with *water* in ours. It is an inland parish, situated in the centre of the county of Caithness. It is of considerable extent, stretching, from S. to N., between 8 and 9 computed miles; and, from E. to W., about 7.

Soil and Climate.—The soil, in general, is of an excellent quality; consisting of a rich deep loam, stiff and friable clay; sand mixed with clay; and in the neighbourhood of the moors

and mosses, of which there is great extent, it is for the most part very light.—The air is sharp and pure, and the climate very changeable from heat to cold, from wet to dry, and from fresh to frost. Snow seldom lies for any length of time; nevertheless, the inhabitants are very healthy.

River, Lakes, and Fish, &c.—The small river *Wick* has its source in the rising grounds, which divide this parish from that of Latheron. In its course, it is joined by 2 streams; the one issuing from the lake of *Toftingall*, lying on the S. W. boundary; the other from that of *Wattin*, situated nearly in the centre of the parish. It is a large and beautiful sheet of water, extending full 3 miles from E. to W., and nearly 2 from S. to N. Eels and trouts are caught in it. Sea fowls, and ducks of different kinds, frequent it.

Population.—From the catechising rolls, made up at different periods, it appears, that there has been a gradual decrease in the population, within these 20 years.

In the year 1774, the parish contained 1435 souls.

1780,	1368.	Decrease,	67
1792,	1230,		138
Total decrease in 18 years,			205

But, in the year 1755, the return to } 1424

Dr. Webster having been

Hence it appears, that there had been an increase, in

19 years, of - - - - - 11

And that the total decrease, in 37 years, is only - 194

This

This decrease is partly to be ascribed to the more easy and frequent intercourse with the more southern counties, where wages of every kind are thought more inviting; partly to the failure of crops 1782 and 1783, which forced many from their native homes; and partly to the growing extent of farms.

In the year 1730 there were 59 Baptisms, and 19 Marriages*.

1740	24	9
1750	60	8
1760	47	11
1770	60	11
1780	40	19
1790	45	8
	335	85

Annual average of equi-distant pe-

riods within 60 years,

-

47 6-7ths

12 1-7th

Heritors, Rent, and Poor.—This parish is the property of 9 heritors, 2 of whom only reside.—The valued rent amounts to 1939l. 4s. 10d. Scotch.—Since 1782, the number upon the poor's roll has been greater, than at any period since regular rolls appear to have been kept here. It cannot, however, be said that their funds increase in proportion. Our ordinary collections, at an average, do not exceed 1s. Sterling per Sabbath. Those, on sacramental occasions, amount only to between 2l. and 3l. This, with the interest of about 100l., and the occasional fines paid by delinquents, are all that the poor of this parish have to look to. And, were it not for the charity of their affluent fellow men, their wants would be insupportable. All that these funds will admit of, is, the price of a pair of shoes to some; as much as will buy a coarse covering to others; and what may purchase a firloot or 6 pecks of meal, during

* There being several burying places within the bounds of the parish, besides the church-yard, the number of deaths cannot be ascertained.

during the scarcest season, to the most indigent. By the commendable liberality of *one heritor*, who lately purchased the largest estate in the parish, the more necessitous have had their yearly allowance increased. This is not mentioned with a view to flatter, but as an example worthy the imitation of non-residing heritors in general. It is a duty incumbent upon them to remember the poor, within the bounds of their respective parishes, by contributing annually somewhat for their support. Heritors draw a great part of the produce of their estates, to spend where they will, and at their pleasure; whilst the poor, upon that very spot which maintains them in ease and affluence, are deprived of tasting the smallest offal which may come from their table.

Church and School.—From 1744 to 1792, the living was 700 merks, 20 bolls oatmeal, and 12 bolls bear, with 40l. Scotch, in name of communion element money; besides a glebe, consisting of about 12 acres, part of which is of a very indifferent quality. Last summer, an augmentation was obtained, modifying the yearly stipend to 75l. 10s. Sterling, 20 bolls oatmeal, 12 bolls bear, and 40l. Scotch for communion elements. The manse and offices were rebuilt in summer 1782; the church was repaired in 1784; and the school-house is about to be rebuilt the ensuing season. The schoolmaster's salary was modified in the year 1760, by the Commissioners of Supply, to be 1 chalder oatmeal, and 50 merks in money, yearly; leaving it optional to the several heritors to pay their proportion of the victual, either in kind or in money, at the rate of 5l. Scotch per boll. All of them chose to pay their respective proportions in money, to the no small prejudice of the teacher. It is much to be regretted, that in this our civilized country, such an useful body of men should be so much neglected. The education of youth is an object highly deserving

serving the attention and encouragement of every enlightened nation.

Occupations, Improvements, &c.—There being neither village nor manufactory within the bounds of this parish, its inhabitants are all employed in the business of farming. Even our tradesmen (of whom there are sufficient numbers of every kind to supply the demands of householders), as well as our servants, betake themselves to that occupation, dividing their time between the labours of the field, and their particular professions. As to our improvements in farming, it must be allowed, we are still greatly behind our fellow subjects in the more southern counties. At the same time, every one, capable of making the observation, sees, that considerable progress has been made, during the course of 12 or 14 years past. Now, the spirit becomes daily more vigorous; and, in a few years hence, large tracts will assume a different appearance. Nature has been uncommonly favourable to us. Our corn fields are, for the most part, extensive, though as yet, in many places, irregular. They hang, with an easy declivity, from S. to N., and from N. to S.: And the moors and commons, though not rich, afford an extensive pasture to small black cattle, sheep, and horses.

Produce.—Barley and oats, with as many potatoes as are sufficient to serve the people, are the crops generally cultivated. Our oats are partly of the black, and partly of the grey kind: The former, weighing from 10 to 12½ stones per boll, according to the soil and culture they meet with; the latter from 7 to 8 stones, and of a very poor quality. The only reason, which can be assigned for continuing to sow them, is, that they stand almost any wind. Several of the gentlemen farmers sow some white oats; and, where the land is good, and well

well prepared, they answer to their satisfaction. The generality, however, of farmers are prejudiced against them, from a belief that they are not so fruitful as either the black or grey; besides being much more liable to be shaken.

Agriculture.—Though this be the common plan of cropping, it is nevertheless allowed, by every one skilled in farming, that our soil is exceedingly well adapted for green crops of every kind. And, upon trial, it has been found to be the case. For several years past, large fields have been laid down in grass, turnips, pease and beans; all of which have answered the most sanguine expectation. Trial is making just now, whether wheat may not be raised. Eight bolls were sown last season; and, though the winter has been very unfavourable, it promises fairly. Hedges, too, have the appearance of succeeding to advantage. More vigorous healthy shoots could not be desired, than those to be seen growing around the ditches upon the Mains of Wattin. About 20 years ago, the outlines of a large farm, on the S. side of the loch, were laid with thorns; and, though totally neglected, both as to cleaning and dressing, several chains lengths, without a breach, have come to such perfection, as to be a sufficient fence against all kinds of cattle. The fields under culture are much infested, both with top and root weeds. But this is owing to the established mode of farming, and not to any natural tendency in the soil. The infield ground is perpetually under tillage. One year, a third part goes to bear, and the other two thirds to oats; and so on, in constant rotation. The smallness of their possessions, and the uncertain tenor by which they hold them, prevents their attempting to fallow. Indeed, they have little inclination that way; nor will their present circumstances permit them to undergo an immediate loss, for the prospect of future gain. Without stock to begin upon, very few ever

get above the world. And this seems to be the principal reason of their being so averse to hold their possessions by lease. Unable to bear any great loss, either by failure of crop or cattle, they think themselves safest, when free to remove at any term they choose, after finding matters likely to go against them. And yet, notwithstanding of this, removals are by no means so frequent as might be expected. It is very common to see the son succeed the father, and end his days within the walls of the same dwelling in which he was born.

Farms, &c.—The ordinary extent of farms, is from 12 to 20 acres infield, from 2 to 6 outfield, from 1 to 2 meadow; off which they cut a short kind of natural hay, with some acres of pasture ground, and the liberty of common. The yearly rent of such possessions is from 2l. to 3l. Sterling, and from 6 to 9 bolls oatmeal, at 9 or 9½ stones per boll. They likewise pay some feet of custom peats, as they are called; the number almost universally in proportion to the distance they are at from the moss; from 8 to 12, or 13 fowls, with the cutting down of an acre, or an acre and a half of corn. Such small possessions, and there are very many below this extent, cannot afford much for the subsistence of the labourer and his family; and may be assigned as a reason why the inhabitants in general are so very poor. A spirit for larger farms, however, now begins to break out amongst them. Several are venturing to join two into one. Unlimited services, some time ago exacted almost by every proprietor, are nearly abolished in this place. The abolition of this practice, baneful in the highest degree, both to the interests and morals of the people, has made a very perceptible change, not only on their spirit, but on their industry. Still, however, they require to be encouraged, if not nursed by their landlords. Improvement, even in husbandry, is not to be expected, but by the labour of the actual farmer.

Proprietors may trim up and adorn a few acres, around their own mansions, but it is only the judicious, diligent, persevering efforts of the husbandman, which extends improvement, and renders it beneficially lasting to the public at large.

Method of Plowing.—Their yoke consists of 4 beasts; horses, oxen, or cows, as they happen to have, or can afford them, all going abreast, and drawing by *theets*. One treads constantly upon the tilled land, another goes in the furrow, and two upon the stubble, or white land. The person driving walks backwards, holding the cattle tied with halters, and taking care that each beast has its equal share of the draught. This, though most awkward to appearance, is a method of yoking, by which the creatures evidently seem to have most power. Were they yoked in any other way, it does not appear that they would be able to draw a plough, with any thing like a furrow, after them. One, not accustomed to their manner, upon looking at their pitiful size, and lean condition, would not think they were able, many of them, so far to *blacken a rig* (raise a furrow), as to cover the seed: Yet some of them will turn over the mould to the depth of about 4 inches; and it is surprising what good crops their *shuffling* labour produces, both of bear and oats. When the season is dry, a part of the ground is plowed, after the corns are gathered in, generally for the following bear crop. During the winter season, and the first month of spring, nothing without doors is done. The whole of their time is employed in threshing down and manufacturing the crop. As soon as the weather sets in dry, and the land becomes fit for plowing, which generally is not before the beginning or middle of March, they are on the fields, labouring from morning to night. When once they begin, greater activity, or more perseverance, is not to be seen amongst any body of people. The same

Same spirit is observable during the harvest season. In summer and winter, it must be allowed, the like praise is not due to them*.

Seasons.—Vegetation here makes but slow progress during the first part of the season. Until towards the summer solstice, both corn and grass make but a poor appearance. Indeed, as to the latter, few think of keeping off their cattle before they finish their labouring; and many still permit them to traverse, and feed even upon the sown land, till the bear seed is begun. But, when once cattle of every kind are carefully kept off, and the night begins to lengthen, it is surprising what vigour vegetation assumes, and what quick progress it makes†.

L 1 2

Fuel.

* About 20 years ago, few, if any, thought of plowing before the middle of March, even when the season was favourable. And, when they did begin, it was, for the most part, with giving the first furrow to their bear land. They never thought of laying down their oats before the middle of April; and every one was desirous that the seed should follow the plough as fast as possible. But, ever since the year 1783, they turn out at any time when the ground is fit for plowing, and are anxious to have the seed sown as soon as possible; from a conviction, that an early laying down is both safest and most substantial.

† Our harvests are not so late as might be expected, considering how far north we lie. For several years past, they have not been either so early, or so good, as they were wont to be. But this has not been peculiar to us. Less damage is sustained here, by a rainy season, than in most countries. High winds sometimes break down a good deal of corn, about the time they are nearly full; but any thing considerable of this kind seldom happens, our grain being of a hardy quality. To prevent loss by rain, great care is taken to secure the corns, when cut, as soon as possible. Little attention is paid, by the general run of farmers, to win the grain in the stook. They are careful to cut when dry; and, if possible, before it gets soaked with rain, they put it together in very small stacks, allowing it to lie in that state for several weeks. When deadened by lying in this manner, they lay it open a second time, by building it a-new in stacks, considerably larger than the former, and fit to stand the winter season.

Fuel.—The labouring being ended, the next work which comes on, is to make provision for winter firing. We have fuel in great abundance, and of an excellent quality. Cutting, winning, and carrying home their peats, however, consumes a great deal of time, notwithstanding they be at no great distance from them, most places having ready access to the adjacent moors and commons. Their labour, in this respect, however, will become less, as they now begin to use carts even for that purpose. As yet they are, in general, of a very trifling kind, though, at the same time, tolerably well adapted to the size of their cattle; and the principal use made of them, is to carry out their dung in the bear-feed season. Amongst the gentlemen and more substantial farmers, carts of a very good size are used; some drawn by horses, others by 2 oxen, and applied to all the purposes of farming and carriages.

Houses, Cattle, &c.—After the peats are brought home, their next labour, is the repairing and trimming of their houses: And this they are under the necessity of doing annually. We have no wood growing; and what is imported sells at a very high rate. This circumstance obliges the people to use as little of that article, in the construction of their houses, as possible. Though their possessions be small, they keep a number of cattle, poorly fed, at all seasons. A farmer here, who rents only to the extent of 3l. and 9 bolls, makes a shift to keep alive from 4 to 6 little horses, from 16 to 20 head of black cattle, and from 20 to 30 head of sheep. This stock (for, during all seasons, they are housed in the night time, except their horses, which, throughout the summer, lie on the commons,

season. By these means, they have an opportunity of discovering any sheaves that may chance to be spoiled by rain or heat, and of separating them from what is entirely sound.

mons, and, in harvest, stand upon *tether*, during the night as well as day), requires considerable extent of housing. Though heritors furnish wood for the first erection, or give allowance to the tenant upon his removal, still he is exposed to considerable expence. Seeing they hold their possessions without any lease, and being themselves but in straitened circumstances, it is neither safe nor convenient for them, either to lay out money, or spend a great deal of labour, for their accommodation in the article of housing. On these accounts, they themselves, as well as their cattle, are but poorly accommodated in that respect. The walls of their dwelling houses consist of 2 or 3 feet of stone, coarsely huddled together with 3 or 4 feet of seal laid above them: Their roofs very thinly wooded, and covered with the lightest *divots* (or turfs) they can procure, tied down with ropes made of heather, to prevent blowing off by the wind. Barns, byres, and stables, it may be believed, are not more elegant and substantial. Composed of such coarse materials, and put together with so little art, they cannot be very lasting, especially when exposed to the severity of a boisterous climate.

Distilleries.—Of late years, the greater part of their bear is distilled by themselves; and, it is to be feared, too much of it is drank, without bringing what it otherwise might into their pockets. From the number of small stills in the country, they have an opportunity, as often as they choose, of drawing 3 bolls of malt, upon paying the owner of the still a certain consideration. This produce they dispose of as they best can; and, while they are employed in the manufacturing and disposing of it, they have likewise an opportunity of *tasting*; and thus losing their time, and spending part, at least, of their profits. Neither their constitutions, nor morals, are gainers by this new branch of business, whatever advantage

tage

tage it may bring to the revenue ; and it will bear a question, whether their profits are, upon the whole, much increased by it.

Commerce.—What quantity of grain, of the growth of this parish, may be sold, is impossible to say with certainty. There must, however, be something considerable, besides the victual rent, which is at least the half of what is paid, and which seldom, if ever, fails to be exported. The West Highlands is the common market. Indeed, it requires no small quantity of grain to maintain the inhabitants†. Besides what victual they may dispose of, after paying their rents, and maintaining their families, which is more or less in proportion to the extent of their farms, and the number of eaters, they sell annually 1, 2, or 3 young cattle, as they can spare. These being poorly fed, at all seasons, bring but little money. And when no demand comes from the South, they are at a loss to dispose of them, owing chiefly to the narrowness of the country. The general run of stots and queys, reared here, from 3 to 4 years old, seldom fetch above 30s. or 40s., according to their size and shape. Milk cows and labouring oxen, particularly the latter, give a tolerable price, and, of late years, have risen greatly in their value. Horses, considering their small size, sell exceedingly high. This circumstance is just beginning to induce gentlemen, and some of the more substantial farmers, to use a larger size than the original breed of the country. Instead of 4 *garrons*, as they are here called, drawing a plough, 2 tolerable sized horses are used by several. From the great number necessary to carry on work of every sort, agreeable to the practice of the country, they do

† Oat and bear meal, with what milk they can afford, are the chief articles of their subsistence. Very little butcher meat is used amongst them. The only vegetables are a few cabbages and potatoes.

do not rear so many as are needed. Indeed, from some mistaken notions, they seldom keep what they rear, till they are fit for the purposes of labour. When about a year old, they are sold, and carried into the Orkneys; from whence they are brought back, in their prime, and sold again at a very high rate. Strathnaver, too, furnishes a good many horses and mares for the accommodation of this quarter.

Sheep.—The few sheep they may have to dispose of, are consumed, either in the towns of Wick and Thurso, or in the families around. Indeed, that useful animal does not prosper here so well as could be wished. The moors, mosses, and commons are, it is thought, too wet for them. But, besides this natural disadvantage, they are not so well taken care of, as they ought and deserve to be. The pasture is not only poor, but greatly overstocked: and they are, all the year round, confined, during the night time, in very low close huts. The winter season, too, is changeable, boisterous, and rainy. Thus exposed, upon bare open fields, without any thing natural or artificial to shelter them, numbers often die, during the course of winter and spring, of what are here called the rott, pock, and scab.

Manufactures.—The only thing, besides corn and cattle, which brings any money amongst us, is a little spinning, for the manufacturers in some of the more southern counties. This, by the by, is but a mere trifle. Our women, perhaps, are more employed in the field, for at least 8 months in the year, than in most other places of the kingdom. This affords the generality of them but little time for making any thing considerable by that branch of business. Almost every family, too, sows what linseed they think will answer the purposes of their own wearing. The produce thereof, and the small
parcel

parcel of wool which their few sheep yields, exhausts the greater part of the time they can spare, from the labour of their little farms. No small loss is sustained by the country at large, that more cloth, especially woollen, is not made amongst them.

Minerals, &c.—This corner is capable of very great improvement. Besides the natural quality of the soil already under tillage, there are vast tracts of ground fit to yield crops of every kind, at little or no expence. It requires only to be plowed up and reduced. In different places, considerable quantities of marle have been found; and in some, lime-stone, of a very excellent quality, though difficult to work. In general, the country abounds with it.

Prejudicial Customs.—From our remote situation, and little intercourse with other countries, we have hitherto been neglected, if not despised. Of late, strangers have begun to creep in amongst us; and a little time will convince, both strangers and natives, that our remote situation is by no means so unfriendly, either to happiness or interest, as has too generally been believed. No doubt there are local practices, and local prejudices amongst us, which require to be laid aside, before great improvement can take place, or strangers reside with real comfort to themselves. From time immemorial, it had been the practice here, for cattle of all kinds to travel and feed promiscuously, without distinction of property, from the day the last sheaf was put into the farm-yard, till the conclusion of the bear seed, in the end of May, or beginning of June. The prejudice this practice is of, to land in general, but to arable land in particular, is now seen by many, and begins to be abolished. Few men will obstinately persist in prejudices or customs, when they are judiciously exposed, and shewn to be
contrary

contrary to their interest. Still, however, the generality are against winter herding. And it is matter of great regret to every friend of improvement in agriculture, that the laws respecting that practice are not universally enforced and observed. The active enterprising farmer can never avail himself, of all the advantages to be derived from his possession, unless he be at liberty to use and lay it out as he pleases. He can never benefit himself, either by fallow or green crops, so long as cattle of every kind, his neighbours as well as his own, are at freedom, for 8 months, nearly, out of 12, to traverse his fields, day and night, wet and dry. Such a custom may, and, no doubt does, profit the *slugard*. His cattle are half maintained almost at the expence of his neighbours. But men of this description ought not to be supported, at the expence of the willing, industrious farmer. His spirited endeavours to provide for himself, and serve the public, ought not to be rendered abortive, merely to gratify the indolence of the sloven; who, rather than exert himself in constant acts of industry, is contented to live in a hovel, to be clothed in rags, and to feed upon bread and water.

Roads, &c.—Another circumstance, which greatly retards the improvement of this place, is the want of good roads. Some attention, indeed, has been paid to this first and most essential step towards improvement. Our roads, in general, have been lined out, and something done upon them, reluctantly, by the statute labour of the people. By these means, we have a more plain and direct tract, during the dry season of the year, to the ports of Wick and Thurso, for travellers, as well as riders and carts: But from this neglect, and the insufficient manner in which they are executed, they become so soft after rain, and are so blown by the frost, that in many places, during winter and spring, the best horses are not fit to drag a cart

with safety. This circumstance renders the carriage of grain, wood, and indeed every other article, to and from port extremely difficult and tedious. From the narrowness of their farms, they can keep only horses of a very small size; which, with the badness of their roads, obliges them to make several journies, where one might otherwise serve. Every thing, by these means, must be carried on horse-back, and that, too, in very small quantities.

Character &c.—Fond of dress, rather to excess, too much of their earnings, particularly of the younger part of both sexes, goes to gratify their fancy in that respect; and it is not always with the best or most substantial articles of any kind, that they are supplied. Being naturally of a sprightly turn, what appears the most showy gains their choice; and, while it pleases for a little, its service is soon at an end. This lively turn, is, perhaps, one reason why our young men, in general, show such a relish for a military life. No sooner does a recruiting party make their appearance, than numbers, even before they are fit to carry arms, are willing to enlist. Wages, it must be allowed, do not bear a proportion with what is given in more southern counties; but these, like every other thing, are daily increasing*. Sripplings now get more than 30s. per half

* About 15 or 20 years ago, a man servant, qualified for all the purposes of farming, did not look for more than 18s. or 20s per half year, with 3 bolls subsistence, half oat, half bear meal; the former at $8\frac{1}{2}$ stones per boll, the latter at 9 stone. Women, qualified for tending cattle throughout the winter, driving the plough, and filling the dung cart in spring, had only about 8s. Sterling, with just half the subsistence allowed the man. Why so little subsistence was and still is allowed to women, no good reason can be assigned. Established customs cannot always be accounted for, nor are they easily or suddenly overturned. This article of wages, however, has of late risen, and still continues to increase.

half year, and the better qualified nearer to 40s., with the old allowance for subsistence; and the women from 12s. to 15s. Nevertheless, numbers of both sexes annually leave the place, in hopes of higher wages, and in the belief that better living is to be had elsewhere, than what they are accustomed to at home.

M m 2

NUMBER

NUMBER XX.

PARISH OF KILCHOMAN.

(County and Synod of Argyll—Presbytery of Kintyre.)

By the Rev. Mr. JOHN M'LIESH, Minister.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

TRADITION says, that CHOMANUS was sent from the monastery of *Icolumkill*, by St. COLUMBUS, to plant the gospel in Islay, and being buried in this place, gave name to the parish of KEIL-CHOMAN. It is situated in the island of Islay, is 20 miles long, and 6 broad, and is of a peninsular form; as *Lochgrunart* and *Lochindale*, two arms of the sea, cut deep into the country.

Coast, Harbours, and Surface.—The shore, to the W., is rough and bold, affording no anchoring ground; but *Lochindale*, to the E., is a fair spacious harbour, with a fine quay at the village of *Bowmore*; and very much frequented, as the sea, to the W. of Islay, in stormy weather, is very rough,
rising

rising literally *mountain* high. A ridge of moor lands, famous for grazing, runs through the parish.

Soil, Produce, Exports, &c.—The ground all around the coast is arable, producing corn and barley, flax and potatoes. The soil is of different qualities; moss, clay, loam, and sand; but no other crops are raised, owing to the open state of the country. Shell, sand, and sea-weed are made use of for manure, as there is no lime-stone in the parish. These are found to give good crops, and to mend the grass: When mixed with moss, they prove an excellent compost. Large fields of potatoes are annually raised by it, which is very fortunate for the poorer sort of people, who can get no other manure, and who live upon potatoes and fish for three fourths of the year. The rearing barley and flax is much practised by the common tenantry, who by these make up the greater part of their rent, yarn being one of our principal exports. The produce of the country, in good seasons, is sufficient to support its inhabitants; but, in bad seasons, they have been obliged to import a good deal of meal.

Cultivation, &c.—Of late, the farmers have got into the way of sowing early oats, which gives them an earlier harvest; for our crops have been often much hurt by the winds and rains, that set in from the W. early in autumn. Seed-time commences about the 22d of March; and by the middle of October all the crop is generally got in. The broad Scotch plough, with 4 horses, is most generally in use. There are several tacksmen in the parish, who employ cottagers to work their farms, and tend their dairy. This must be the case with gentlemen who have large farms, as it would be impossible to take servants into their houses to carry on all their business; and as there may be some of them, whose
circumstances

circumstances enable them to be above taking such drudgery upon themselves.

Climate and Diseases.—Our climate is the same with that of other maritime places. If we have our westerly winds and rains, we are free of the frosts and snows of the east, snow never continuing above a day or two with us. An instance of the wholesomeness of that climate, may be seen in the healthfulness of our people, who are seldom or never visited with any epidemical distemper, and generally live to a good age. The small pox, which used to make a vast devastation, is now easily got over by inoculation; one surgeon having, last season, performed that operation upon more than 800 children, very few of whom died. Some people advanced in years were also inoculated, with good effects. The poor were inoculated gratis, and the operator enjoys their blessing.

Wild Animals.—Any one, that has a right to keep a gun and dog, may find plenty of game here; such as partridges, woodcocks, blackcocks, moorfowl, plovers, wild geese and ducks, and wild pigeons; also otters, rabbits, and hares, sea and land barnacles.

Black Cattle.—The rearing of cattle is a principal object with the gentlemen of Islay, who have the merit of having brought the Islay cattle to vie with the best of their neighbours at market, and to be much run upon. The farming business may be pursued to advantage in Islay; but black cattle have been its greatest riches of late years. There are about 800 of these annually sold out of this parish, at the average price of 3l. 15s.; they are carried by drovers to Dumbarton and Falkirk, and even to England, occasionally.

Horses:

Horses.—We are said to keep too many horses, which is a gainst the system of black cattle: Yet these horses bring a good deal of money into the country, the Irish being very fond of them, as they are neat lively creatures, and fit for the saddle. Our manner of husbandry requires also a good many horses, 4 being yoked in each plough; and peats, corn, and fulzie carried home on horseback. As the country is champaign, and the roads good, an Ilayman will scarce stir from home without his *pad*.

Sheep.—It is much to be wished, we had got more into the rearing of sheep than we have, as the country would answer them well; and the higher lands would be excellent sheep walks, being green to the top, and there being no foxes or other vermin to destroy them. The tenantry content themselves, however, with rearing no more than serves their own families: Hence mutton and wool sell high.

Population.—By a late enumeration, the number of inhabitants in this parish amounts to - - - 2300

The population in 1755 is uncertain. Dr. Webster says, that the island of Ilay contained then only the two parishes of Killarow and Kildalton; under which, it is probable, that Kilmenie and Kilchoman were included. We are enabled, however, to state the exact increase of population in the whole island; as the total number of people in Ilay, at present, amounts to above - - - 9500

From which deducting the return, in
 1755, from Killarow, - - - 1761 }
 And that from Kildalton, - - - 3583 } - 5344

The total increase in the island is - 4156

The

The following is an abstract of births and marriages* for 8 years past :

Years.	Births.	Marriages.
1784	52	16
1785	54	36
1786	50	10
1787	54	17
1788	56	19
1789	58	12
1790	57	15
1791	64	16
Total, - -	445	141
Average, - -	$55\frac{5}{8}$	$17\frac{5}{8}$

Employments, &c.—The inhabitants are all employed in the farming and grazing line, there being no manufactory established in the country ; but they are well supplied with tradesmen, in the common and most necessary arts, who make a good livelihood of it. Travelling merchants gather our yarn, and bring home our flax-feed, grocery goods, and rather too many *fineries*. But our people like to appear to advantage. There are about 80 hogsheads of flax-feed annually imported into the parish ; the cultivation of which, and manufacturing the produce, constitute the principal business in the island. The people are much more given to the making of linen, than woollen cloth, this being a flaxen country. Many of the genteler families keep weavers employed for themselves, all the year through. The Highland dress has not made such rapid progress among us, as with our neighbours to the N. We are more clad in the long coat, hat, and breeches, than the inhabitants of any of the Hebrides. Besides the scarcity of wool, there is another, and indeed a very great disadvantage, that

* No regular register of burials has been kept, on account of the great number of burial places in the parish. On occasions of baptisms, marriages, and burials, the expence incurred borders on extravagance, through a silly compliance with the old fashion.

that Islay lies under, by a scarcity of wood; timber being brought from the northern lakes, at a very high price, and difficult to obtain even for it, owing to the great demand for charcoal. Hence implements for husbandry, house-building, and carpentry business, come to be very expensive.

Fisheries, Fuel, &c.—But if the sea has bared our country of wood, it has filled its coasts with fish. Lochindale affords all kinds of sea fish, and Portnahaven, a fishing village, in the Rinns of Islay, is famous for its cod fishing: And for their encouragement, Mr. Campbell of Shawfield has given them some boats, lands, and timber for houses. Another very great advantage, we have, is, that no country is better supplied with fire and water. Almost every farm has peatmoss within itself, of an excellent kind, affording charcoal for the smith, as we have no coals. These peats, with the fish oil they burn in lamps, make the habitation of the meanest cottager warm and cheery. As to our waters, there are alembics enough to make them light and wholesome. They are remarkably good for bleaching, which the clearness of our linens can show; and it is probable the bleaching business might be prosecuted with great advantage in Islay.

Lake and Island.—There are no waters in the parish that deserve the name of rivers. There is one lake, which covers about 100 acres of land, and is well supplied with fine trouts. There are several large oak trees at the bottom of it, which shews the country was once under wood. In this lake, there is a small island, fortified very strong. Its bastions are all entire. To this fort, it is said, M'DONALD of ISLAY betook himself in his difficulties*. Now the owls of the desert nestle in it.

VOL. XI.

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Roads

* The battle fought between the M'Donalds and the M'Leans, in 1588, is the

Roads and Bridges.—None of the Western Isles can boast of such good roads and bridges as Ilay. The inhabitants are every year called out to work upon them; and any gentleman may drive for 30 miles through the isle in his carriage. To complete the line, our communication with the main shore is kept up by a packet, which goes and returns regularly every week, with the mail, passengers, and goods on board. This packet has 40*l.* of salary from the country, and 30*l.* from government. The expence of government is more than defrayed by the post-office here, as seafaring people, along with those in the country, send a great many letters through that channel.

Proprietor and Rent.—Mr. CAMPBELL of Shawfield is proprietor of the whole island, and possesses one of the best and most compact estates, enjoyed by any commoner in Britain. On the forfeiture of the M'Donalds, Ilay, Jura, and the lands of Muckairn, were made over to Campbell of Calder, who was then a favourite at court, on condition of his paying 500*l.* yearly of a feu-duty out of Ilay, which is the reason of the duty being so high; and Calder sold all these lands again to Shawfield, for 12,000*l.*; which, if the rage for renting land continues, will, by and by, be the income from it.

Church,

the most remarkable event of this district. M'Lean, being married to M'Donald's daughter, was to have part of Ilay as her portion; but the treaty not being implemented, he came from Mull with 1400 of his clan, to force M'Donald to a compliance. M'Donald, with 1000 of his tribe, gave him battle, and destroyed the flower of his army. M'Lean himself was killed with an arrow, and lies interred in the kirk of Kilchoman. A savage courtship indeed! but such were the times! It is not certain how long the M'Donalds maintained their dominion in Ilay, and other places, after that æra; but sure it is, that, by their restless disposition, they at last forfeited them.

Church.—The church* now made use of, stands in the middle of the parish. The minister goes occasionally to the skirts of it, and preaches for more than one half of the year, in both languages; a duty which none but the clergy in the Highlands have to go through. He has 50l. of stipend, a glebe, and manse-money, with 5l. for communion elements; has been settled 10 years in the parish, and is married to his predecessor's widow, by which her children drew 200l. out of the widow's fund. The King is patron of all Ilay, and draws 500l. yearly feu-duty out of it. All the inhabitants belong to the Established Church. There are 4 parishes, but only 3 ministers in the island, notwithstanding the great number of the inhabitants.

Schools.—The parochial school is taught in the church. There are at present about 40 scholars attending it. The master has 100 merks of yearly salary, with dues from christenings and marriages. There are several other schools in different parts of the parish; the masters of which are maintained and paid by the contributions of individuals. An industrious good schoolmaster is a most valuable member of society, and much needed in this parish, to assist in guarding the youth from the errors of Popery, as we are just in the very neighbourhood of Ireland. A fourth minister is also much to be wished for in the island; as, upon some occasions, 3 clergymen have to dispense the sacrament to no fewer than 1200 communicants.

N n 2

Improvements.

* This parish is obliged to the devotion, or rather to the superstition, of its former inhabitants, for the many vestiges of chapels, or places of worship, that are to be seen in it; these being no less than 6 in number, whose walls, crosses, and fonts are pretty entire. But how could it be otherwise, with a place that is within a few leagues of the monastery of the famous IONA, which dispersed its missionaries all over Britain?

Improvements.—One other circumstance that deserves to be noticed, in the history ofIslay, is the attention that has of late been effected in the police of it. Changes and improvements, in all countries, take their rise from the spirited exertions of particular individuals, who seem born for the purpose of rousing the multitude from a state of ignorance and torpor. Within these dozen of years, the present proprietor has more than doubled his rents; yet the tenantry, as well as himself, are better off than ever. They have given him, as it were, an addition to his estate, by rescuing many acres, of moor and mofs, from a state of nature, and bringing them to yield good crops of corn and grass. On the other hand, the proprietor has given the tenants such advantageous leases, that they have greatly bettered their circumstances, as well as increased their numbers, and are enabled to live much more comfortably than formerly. And indeed they are so sensible of the advantages they enjoy, and are in general so contented with their situation, that very few have emigrated from the island: And the farms of those who have, have never continued long unpossessed. When tenants are emancipated from the avarice of monopolisers, they seem to breathe a purer air, and improvements go on rapidly; for nothing has tended more to excite the spirit of emigration, than the *Demon* of Monopoly, which leads the avaricious to add land to land, and farm to farm. The writer of this article, cannot approve of the maxim, “That *the more rents* you lay on, the tenants will *work the better.*” This, like the Egyptian bondage, is exacting bricks without straw, and tends to check, rather than incite, the spirit of industry. But if the moderation and lenity, that have hitherto been observed inIslay, continue to be adhered to, we may venture to promise, that the people will rather stay at home, to improve the lands of their native island, than go abroad to cultivate the wilds of America. Amen!

Character

Character and Manners.—No objection can be made against their natural parts and abilities, which are subtle and ingenious. They are fond of their own country, and are not much addicted to enlisting in the army or navy. They marry young, and are greatly connected by intermarriages, which must always be the case with insular situations; and yet they are very kind to all strangers, who come to reside among them, or visit them. They are in general as contented with their situation as most people, as they have the comforts and conveniences of life in a reasonable degree. The Gaelic is the general language of the common people; yet English is pretty well understood, and taught in all our schools. The dance and the song, with shinty and putting the stone, are their chief amusements. Numbers of them play well on the violin and bagpipe. They have a natural ease and gracefulness of motion in the dance, which is peculiar to themselves. The gentlemen, once a year, treat the ladies with a ball, where cheerfulness and propriety of conduct, always preside; and more elegance of manners are to be seen, than could well be expected in so remote a situation.

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NUMBER XXI.

PARISH OF KILDALTON.

(County and Synod of Argyll—Presbytery of Kintyre.)

By the Rev. Mr. ARCHIBALD ROBERTSON, Minister.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE name of this parish is probably derived from some eminent person who had been the first that was buried here. It is situated on the S. E. end of the island of Ilay, and extends along the sea shore, from the *Moille of Keann-outh*, to *M'Carture's Head*, near the entry of the Sound of Ilay from the E. It is above 15 miles in length, and about 6 in breadth.

Soil, Cultivation, Roads, &c.—There is great variety in the soil over all the parish; for, in the same farm, you will find a very poor, light, sandy soil, and some very good ground, that would produce a rich crop, if it had tillage and manure. There is some clay ground, and a great quantity of moss. But the great loss, in this country, is, that the small tenants are almost every year plowing down all their arable ground; and they seldom manure any ground, except for potatoes and
barley;

barley ; so that they cannot have a good crop of oats. The gentlemen farmers, again, employ almost their whole time in rearing good black cattle, and lay out their fine arable ground in feeding them ; in consequence of which, the cultivation of grain is very little attended to. All the farmers here plow with 4 horses, excepting a very few, who, having light ploughs, employ only 2. The rest make use of heavy clumsy ploughs, of their own manufacture. They carry out their manure in small creels on horseback, and they bring home their peats in the same manner ; whereby much time is spent in doing very little work. This is partly owing to the want of good public roads ; for the inhabitants only work at them 2 days in the year, and the statute labour is never commuted. They do little or nothing for the reparation of private roads. It is much to be wished, that the tenants knew the value of good roads, and that they would employ carts to manure the ground, as they do in the next parish, where they have a good public road, which is upheld at a small expence to the tenants. The people of Killarow are encouraged to improve a little in agriculture, by the example of Mr. Campbell of Shawfield, who is one of the best farmers in the west of Scotland : And perhaps his Islay estate is capable of as much improvement as any in the kingdom.

Inclosures.—There is only a very small part of this parish inclosed ; and the large parks, that the principal tenants have made, are employed for feeding their young black cattle in winter. These parks are very seldom, if ever, plowed ; and in harvest no beast is fed in them, as they are kept for winter grass. The parish might easily be inclosed, for we abound in stones ; and the want of inclosures is severely felt in this parish, where we are so much exposed to every wind that blows,
and

and where we lose so much grain in autumn by shaking winds. But we want money and the spirit for agriculture; for if we had a real desire of improving our lands, we might live comfortably, and be of great use to society.

Produce.—The tenants sow yearly about 28 hogsheds of flax-seed; but the quantity of oats, barley and potatoes, that are sown here, cannot be known, because the farmers seldom measure any thing that they sow. The number of ploughs employed here, is more or less, according to the season. When we have a great quantity of rain in spring, which is often the case, we are obliged to employ more ploughs, in order to finish the work of the field early; for a late harvest is very dangerous in this island, where we have such a deluge of rain in the end of autumn.

Imports and Exports.—This parish imports annually meal, salt, sugar, tea, iron, flaxseed, green hides, and other goods, to a considerable amount. The chief articles exported, are black cattle, horses, and linen yarn; for the women here are always employed in spinning, excepting a few weeks during harvest.

Harbours.—There are many anchoring places along this shore, where small vessels may be safe in time of danger. One of these is about 3 miles to the S. W. of the Sound of Ilay, and is known by the name of *Loch-Knock*. The name is taken from a very high hill, which rises in the figure of a sugar loaf, near the head of the lake or bay, and is the first part of this end of the island, that is seen by mariners, when they are at a great distance from the shore. There are two very large flag stones erected near this lake. They are placed about 24
feet

feet from each other, and they are called *the Two Stones of Islay* *.

Islands, &c.—There are also a few small islands on each side of this entry to the lake. Strangers should therefore be very careful to keep at a proper distance from these islands, when near this shore, as they are very near the main island. There is another anchoring place, about 3 miles to the S. W. of Loch-Knock, which is known by the name of *Lagambuilin*. There are 3 ways of coming to this anchoring place, which is opposite to a small village, and they usually cast anchor near a quay, that lies below this village. The entry next the manse, on the W. side of the bay, is the best †. The

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church.

* The common tradition concerning these stones is, that a daughter of one of the kings of Denmark was buried here, whose name was *YOLA*; and that from her this island was called *ISLAY*, or *ISLA*; which seems to be the more probable, that a Highlander pronounces both these words nearly in the same manner.

† On the E. side of this place there is a tower, or castle, known by the name of *DUN-NAOMHAIG*. This castle is built on a large rock, which is surrounded by the sea on all sides, except the N. There are still, on the N., the remains of many old houses, that had been built for barracks and storehouses. Some of the cellars, and a baker's house, are still visible here. There is a very strong wall on the W. side, between the castle and the barracks; and the side walls of a large gate are still standing. This gate is called the *Iron Gate*; and it is reported here, that the fort was supplied with water from a small river, that runs past the end of the manse; and that it was conducted in pipes, under the sea, across this bay, to the distance of about half a mile. There is a large stone room on the top of the fort; and here the gun ports are entire. On the N. side of this room there is an earthen mound, which is very thick; and it appears to have been built up to the top of the fort, as a kind of defence to that part of the building; for the N. is the only place where an enemy could make an attack on this fort. There is a high hill on the W. side of the bay, opposite to this fort, where there was also a tower, for the defence of *Dun-naomhaig*; and as both places are nearly of the same height, and only about the distance of about a quarter of a mile

church now employed for public worship is at this place; and the village contains 100 souls. There is, to the W. of this place about 2 miles, an island, called *Texa*; and, on the N. side, a very good place for anchoring large ships. The anchoring is opposite to an old chapel, that is about the middle of the island. Those who are strangers here, should keep, if possible, at the distance of a mile from the W. end of this island, when they are going through the sound, between this and the main island, or when they are obliged to cast anchor; as there is a ridge of rocks that lie out from the W. end, until you are on a level with the N. side of this island. The E. end of the island is free from rocks, and the best ground for anchoring is near the shore. This island is near 2 miles in length, and above $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in breadth. There is good pasture in this small island; and there is a burying-place around the chapel, the walls of which are partly standing. There are the remains of other 2 or 3 chapels in this parish, where they were formerly wont to bury those who were of the popish religion; but the whole inhabitants of this parish now belong to the Established Church; so that there are none now buried at these chapels, unless when a stranger happens to die here, who is of the Roman Catholic religion.

Bays and Rocks, &c.—A little to the N. W. of this island, there is a bay, called the *Lowdinas*, where many small vessels may anchor; for it is large, and well sheltered on all sides but the S. The whole of these anchoring places are very dangerous.

mile from each other, it was an easy matter to prevent small vessels from coming to this place; for no vessels that draw above 6 or 7 feet water, can come here at any time. It is said, that the M'Donalds ofIslay lived here about the beginning of the last century. There are a great many forts and buildings also within a few miles of this place.

gerous for strangers to come into, because all of them are surrounded with large rocks, that run along the whole coast, and in many places jut out into the sea 3 or 4 miles; and some of them are visible, others not. When strangers are obliged to take shelter here from a storm, they should, if possible, get out some boat from the shore, that they may have some of the natives of the island to pilot them through these rocks, and to conduct them into the best ground for anchoring. The inhabitants here are very ready to perform this service to all strangers, if it lies in their power to give them assistance. There are many other creeks along this coast, into which the natives run with their small boats; but strangers are in very great danger, when they venture into any of those creeks, because many of them are full of sunk rocks. There is a place called *Dun-Aidb*, where a Danish fort was formerly built. The rock on which this fort stood is very large, and its height, from the bottom of the sea, is very extraordinary. The top of the rock is now covered with grass; for there is no appearance of any building now remaining. The wall, on the N. side, is nearly covered with earth, and the whole N. side is fine pasture for sheep. There is more than an acre of ground between the top and the N. side of this rock. There is a deep valley both on the W. and the E. of this rock; and the ascent is so very steep on each side, that it is almost impossible for any man to creep up upon his hands and feet to the top. No ordinary gun is supposed to be capable of carrying a ball from the bottom of this valley to the top of the rock*.

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*It is said, that the only way of access up to it was on the very edge of this great valley; and that there was a cave made here, where a few men were hid; who, when they saw any person coming near the entry, either killed them from the cave, or drove them over the precipice, whereby they were dashed to pieces before they reached the bottom of this immense valley.

There is a part of a wall yet standing, in a place that is now very dangerous to approach. This wall is about 18 feet thick. The sea, almost every day, dashes against it in a most tremendous manner; for this place is very near the *Moile of Cheunn-OUTH*, and it is the most dangerous place in this parish for any vessel to come near. All the farms round this fort have Danish names, such as *Kennibus*, *Affibus*, *Kelibus*, *Lirebus*, and *Cragabus*.

Lakes, Hills, &c.—There are 4 lakes in this end of the parish, and there are also some lakes in the high mountains belonging to it; but they are of little use to the people here, who have almost their whole fish from the sea; only those who are near these lakes may sometimes catch a few trouts in them. The mountainous part of the parish is very extensive, and part of it is a common to all the tenants, where they pasture their strong black cattle and horses in summer, and a part of autumn. Some parts of these mountains are barren and wet; but there is some dry soil, where sheep might find good pasture; and if a great number of them were fed here, the grass would gradually become better every year. There are only a few sheep, of a very small kind, that feed on these mountains, from the time they sow their seed till the whole crop is got in.

Wood and Fuel.—The greatest part of the wood of Islay lies on each side of Loch-Knock. This wood, which consists of small timber of various kinds, extends above 2 miles along the sea. The whole inhabitants have liberty to cut down timber, and carry it away at pleasure, out of this wood. Here they get bark, and wood for their farming utensils; and some of them use the timber for fuel, when they are scarce of
peats,

peats, which are the principal fuel we have, and are very plentiful throughout all this island.

Population.—This parish contains above 1600 souls; and the females are more numerous than the males, a great number of young men having left the parish, and gone to the Low Country for employment: Some have gone to America and other places; so that the number of inhabitants has diminished within these 40 years*. There is no register kept of the burials. The following is a list of the baptisms and marriages for the last 4 years.

Anno	MARRIAGES.		BAPTISMS.	
		Males.	Females.	Total.
1789	24	15	18	33
1790	22	31	16	47
1791	8	10	27	37
1792	12	31	27	58
Total,	66	87	88	175
Annual average,	16½	21¼	22	43½

Wages, Manner of Living, &c.—The wages of men servants are 5l. Sterling, besides some little advantages, such as ground for sowing flax-seed, or potatoes. Women servants have about the half of that sum. The hire of both is double what it was 20 years ago; and there is almost an annual increase in their wages. There are very few employed by the day; but when they are, they get 6d. a day and their maintainance. Tradesmen are generally paid so much per piece; but as we have no kind of manufacture, the number of tradesmen is very few. The poor people who have families,

* For the decrease in this parish, as well as the total increase in the island, see page 279

families, spend much of their time, in spring, in preparing some potatoe land, and in carrying manure from the shore on their backs, which they spread on such moss land as they procure; for the sea-ware is very abundant, and proves good manure for moss ground. The summer, again, is employed in cutting their own peats, and the peats of those on whom they depend for a house, or a cow's grass, or any other advantages they enjoy; which are all paid for in labour of this kind. They are also frequently employed, on similar terms, in harvest, as they get ground for sowing flax-seed, which they pay for, by assisting the farmers in cutting down their barley and oats; nothing else being sown here excepting potatoes, which is the only support of the poor. They also catch some grey fish and cod, which they dry, and keep for winter provisions; and they sometimes get a few herrings in the winter season; but the herrings are only driven here in stormy weather, and seldom continue any time.

Poor.—The number of those who apply to the kirk-session for charity, seldom exceeds 20, as we have no fund for their relief, except what is collected on Sabbath in the church, which is very trifling. However, the wants of the poor are partly supplied by the tenants at their own houses, where they give freely what is necessary for their maintainance and clothing. The natives are very hospitable to strangers; and are often imposed upon by vagrant beggars, who are very capable of working for their own support. Giving charity to such persons is an encouragement to idleness and vice, which every friend to mankind ought to discourage, and reward the opposite virtues of industry and sobriety.

Church, &c.—The old church walls are entire, though the roof was demolished many years ago. It is about a century
since

since public worship was performed in it. There is at present no appearance of any house near this church. There is, however, within the church-yard, a very large cross; and there is another cross on the outside of the wall that incloses the burying ground; and both of them have the appearance of having been very long in this place. This church stands in the N. E. end of the parish, and within a few miles from the entry to the Sound of Ilay. There is also, in the other end of the parish, the remains of an old church, at a place known by the name of *Kilnaughtan*. The walls of this kirk are very much decayed; and in a few years both the kirk and the burying ground will be covered over with sand, that is driven from the shore in great quantities. There is much of the burying ground already destroyed; for there is no wall or fence around this burying place, and it is very difficult to fence it, so as to prevent the sand from blowing over the whole church-yard, as it is so near a stormy sea. The greatest part of the inhabitants are buried in this place. The nearest farm to this is called *Baille Vicar*, or the *Vicar's Town*; and there is joined to this farm the clerk's *patch*, which is now of some value. There is, at the distance of 4 miles, a farm called *Baille Naughtan*; and, as that farm is the centre between the two kirks, it was judged a proper situation for the minister's manse. These 2 farms are justly esteemed the best land in the whole parish. The church now employed for public worship was built about 60 years ago, near this last farm; and it is still a good edifice; only the roof wants some repairs. Public worship was performed here before the new church was built. There is a convenient manse near this church, which was built a few years ago, and was lately plaitered. Good office houses were also built within these 2 years. The glebe is large, and maintains, through the whole year, 12 cows, and 4 horses. It produces 12 Ilay bolls of oats,
2 bolls

2 bolls of barley, and 4 bolls of potatoes; besides the moss ground, that some poor people have for 3 years *gratis*, for potatoe ground †. The stipend is only 50l. Sterling, which is all paid by the factor of Ilay; as the whole parish belongs to Mr. Campbell of Shawfield.

Schools.—There have been 2 school-houses built here within these 3 years, and both the schoolmasters are lodged under the same roof, in a house joined to each of the school-houses. The one is the parochial school, and the other a charity school. Besides these, we sometimes have other 2 schools, at the more distant corners of this large parish; and there is great need of them all the year, if it were possible to support the teachers.

Peculiar Privilege, and Consequences.—This island hath a liberty of brewing whisky, without being under the necessity of paying the usual excise duty to government. We have not an excise officer in the whole island. The quantity therefore of whisky made here is very great; and the evil, that follows drinking to excess of this liquor, is very visible in this island. This is one chief cause of our poverty; for the barley, that should support the family of the poor tenant, is sold to a brewer for 17s. the boll; and the same farmer is often obliged to buy meal at 1l. 3s. Sterling, in order to keep his family from starving. When a brewer knows that a poor man is at a loss for money, he advances him a trifle, on condition that he makes him sure of his barley at the above price; and it is often bought by the brewers even at a lower rate; while those who are not obliged to ask money until they deliver

† There is a very large quantity of moss land in this island, that might easily be improved; if the poor people had it for 2 or 3 years, rent free, they might support their own families, and be of great service to the tenants whose lands are cultivated.

deliver their barley, receive 20s. or more for it. This evil, of distilling as much barley as might maintain many families, it is hoped, by some means or other, will be soon abolished. It may take some time, however, to prevent the people from drinking to excess; for bad habits are not easily overcome: but there would surely be some hopes of a gradual reformation, if spiritous liquors were not so abundant, and so easily purchased.

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NUMBER

NUMBER XXII.

UNITED PARISHES OF KILLARROW
AND KILMENY,

IN THE ISLAND OF ISLAY.

*(County and Synod of Argyll—Presbytery of Kintyre.)**By the Rev. Mr. JOHN MURDOCH, Minister.*

Origin of the Names.

ISLAY is traditionally derived from ISLA, daughter of one of the kings of Lochlin, or Norway, who lies buried in a neighbouring farm. KILLARROW took its name from St. Marrow, whose cell or burying place was in the parish: And KILMENY has doubtless had a similar derivation. Killarrow is now frequently called *Bowmore*; the old church at Killarrow having been thrown down, and the present church built at the village of Bowmore.

Extent, Surface, Rivers, Fish, &c.—The parish of Bowmore is of great extent, being 17 or 18 computed miles long, and 8 broad. The lands are generally low; the hills are not very high, nor rocky, but covered with heath and fern. The
river

river *Luggan*, where there is a salmon fishing, is one of the largest in the district, emptying itself into a bay of the same name, in the S. corner of the parish. The river of *Killarrow* runs a great way in the country, and empties itself into the bay or harbour of *Lochendaal*, which harbour runs from the Mull of *Ilay* and the *Runn's Point*, about 12 miles, to *Shawfield's* pleasuregrounds. It is an excellent harbour for shipping, is very much resorted to, and of late more than ever; as the proprietor has lately built a fine quay at the village of *Bowmore*, which will contain many vessels from 8 to 10 feet water. The harbour abounds with all sorts of fish; and, in good weather, the inhabitants, with small boats, supply themselves abundantly. Salmon sells at 1½d. per pound; when dearest, at 2d. per pound. As every farm round *Lochendaal* has a boat of its own, fish are in no great demand, nor is there a market convenient*.

Soil, Produce and Cultivation, &c.—The soil varies in most of the farms. The farmers plow too much ground. The average produce of oats is, from 3 to 4 returns, of barley from 4 to 5; but where marl and lime, or shell sand, are easily obtained, and the lands are drained, the increase is much greater. Mr. Campbell has improved large tracts of moor ground, within view of his own house, which lies about 3 English miles from the village; and, from his method of cultivation, they have produced large crops. He spares neither pains nor expence; and in this respect several of his tenants attempt to imitate him. It is computed that he lays

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out

* About 20 years ago, some gentlemen adventurers from *Liverpool*, fitted out 3 smacks, with wells, and caught great quantities of cod and ling at the *Head Lands*, which supplied the *Liverpool* markets abundantly; but the bad conduct of the persons employed obliged them to give it up.

out yearly from 700l. to 1000l. per annum upon improvements, though his stay here be but 2 or 3 months in the year. Oats are sown from the middle of March to the middle of April, the barley in April and May, as well as the flax-feed, of which the people of this island sow 120 hogheads (new seed) annually; besides what is reared in the country, the value of which, in the year, may amount to 2000l. There is a great deal of linen cloth manufactured for home consumption, and some for sale. The harvest is as early in Islay, as in the neighbourhood of Glasgow

Climate, &c.—The air is generally moist, from its local situation, being surrounded by the sea, and having no shelter from the storms of the Atlantic Ocean, nearer than North America. Islay is the most western part of Scotland. The prevailing winds are the W. and S. W. The seasons of late have changed to the disadvantage. The 2 last years we had little or no frost or spring; sometimes the tops of the trees were covered. The rains and high winds in the succeeding summers, hurt the crops, which obliged the inhabitants to import meal; whereas, in former years, they used to export large quantities to other markets.

Cattle.—There is, twice a year, a market for black cattle; to which drovers from the main land always resort, and buy up great numbers. The cattle are of an excellent quality, and draw high prices.

Population.—From a late survey, the number of souls in Killarrow,

Killarrow, including those in the village, amount to	-	2500
There are in Kilmeny about	- - - -	2000
		4500
The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was only	-	1761
Hence there is an increase of	-	2739

Indeed the whole population of Ilay has increased greatly within these 40 years †, owing principally to the tenants, who are in possession of large farms, dividing their possessions among their children, which encourages marriage. - Some, however, who are reduced in their circumstances, are obliged to emigrate.

Village.—The village of BOWMORE was begun in the year 1768, and laid out on a regular plan. By order of the proprietor, the new church was built at the end of one of the principal streets, in a very elegant manner, and upon a new plan. It is ornamented with a steeple, fronting the quay, built from the foundation with freestone. It cost about 1000*l*. There are already 110 houses built in the village, 50 of which are covered with blue slates, 20 with tiles, and the rest are thatched. The inhabitants are increasing. The number at present (1793), of old and young, is about 500.

Church, School, and Poor.—Besides the new church in Bowmore above mentioned, there is another in the parish of Kilmeny, 7 miles distant. The value of the livings is but small, and, including the glebe and manse, not worth above 60*l*. a year. The King is patron.—There is only one charity school in both the parishes, though the people are fond of being instructed.—The poor of both parishes are not very numerous.

† For the particulars of the total increase, see KILCHOMAN, page 279.

merous. Such as are able to travel from door to door are well supplied; such as are confined are assisted from the collections on Sundays, and some little funds in the poor's box.

Roads and Bridges.—The roads in Islay are carried on to great perfection. Those already finished are excellent, particularly from the Sound of Islay to Bowmore, a distance of about 12 miles, wherein there are 7 bridges, built with stone and lime. The rest of the roads go on in course; and, in less than 20 years, they may be all travelled with carriages.

Minerals.—There is plenty of lime-stone and marl, which, when the roads now making by the proprietor are finished, will be the means of improving large tracts of land, still in a state of nature, but very capable of improvement.

Character of the People.—The inhabitants are mostly natives of the island, and all belong to the Established Church. They are hospitable, generous, and humane; and, like all islanders, attached to their country.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXIII.

PARISH OF EDENHAM, OR EDNAM.

(County of Roxburgh—Presbytery of Kelso—Synod of Merse
and Tiviotdale.)

By the Rev. Mr. DAVID DICKSON, Minister

Name, Situation, and Rivers.

THIS parish derives its name from a compound of *Eden* and *Ham*; being situated on the banks of the river *Eden*, and *Ham* signifying a village. The village, where the church stands, is built on the N. bank of the river *Eden*, which runs for more than 3 miles through this district, and joins the *Tweed* at *Edenmouth*. The parish is placed in one of the most delightful situations in Scotland, on the banks of the river *Tweed*. This beautiful river, after being joined by the *Tiviot* at *Kelso*, bounds the parish of *Edenham*, about a mile below it, on the S. and S. E. The parish is not quite a mile and a half distant from the English border, at the burn of *Carham*, on the opposite side of the *Tweed*, formerly well known by the name of the *March Burn*.

Extent

Extent and Climate.—In extent, it is about 3 miles broad, and rather somewhat more in length. The climate of Edenham, from its situation on the two rivers, is undoubtedly salubrious; yet, since the present incumbent was settled, it has been visited by different epidemical fevers, that sometimes proved mortal.

Cultivation, Surface, Hills, Soil, &c.—Agriculture is carried on to a great extent in this parish. The industry and activity of the farmers cannot be exceeded, and they are all opulent and prosperous. The surface of the grounds consists of some beautiful flats in many places, especially on the sides of the rivers Tweed and Eden. The parish contains also several fields, lying on inclined plains. There are two rising grounds, one on the N. side of the Eden, near the village, called *Edenham Hill*, and another between the Tweed and the Eden, called *Henderside Hill*. The height of neither is great, though not ascertained; but they are both highly cultivated. The soil is of various kinds: Some part of it strong clay, some of it light sand and channel, and some of it a mixture of both. In a few places there is a thin bed of moss, covering rich stores of marl. The marl has been dug for manure, at considerable expence, and it has been attended with great success. Burned lime-stone is brought in great quantities from Northumberland, at the distance of 17 or 18 miles.

Produce and Farm Rents.—The ground produces wheat, barley, pease and beans, and oats, all of the best quality, which can scarcely be exceeded in any part of Scotland. It produces also turnips, and broad clover, in abundance; and the pasture land is of the richest kind. Land rent is consequently high in price: 3l. an acre has been given here both for
arable

arable and pasture land, and inferior prices according to the quality.

Cattle and Fuel.—The farmers consider the land as too good for breeding cattle or sheep, and therefore few are reared in the parish: The sheep and cattle are mostly all bought in, and fed for the butcher to great value. Fuel is very expensive, as there are no coals, but what are brought from Northumberland, at the distance of 16 or 18 miles.

Population.—The number of inhabitants has increased considerably within these 40 years.

The present number of souls is about	-	-	-	600
The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was only	-	-	-	387
Increase,	-	-	-	213

The number of births, burials, and marriages is not easily ascertained. Seceders, though obliged by law to register the births of their children in the parish register, consider the tax on baptisms as a *profanation*, and often neglect it on that account; though afterwards it may be prejudicial to their children. And marriages are often made so irregularly, by persons not legally qualified, that those, who belong to the Secession, do not willingly submit to the discipline of the Church.

Improvements and Manufactures, &c.—The population of this parish has not, however, increased in proportion to what it once promised. When the late JAMES DICKSON, Esq. M.P. became proprietor of Edenham, being a person of public spirit, he inclosed all his lands, planned and built a neat village, the houses being all of brick, covered with *pantile*, or *slates*;—brought manufacturers from England, and established

blished woollen manufactures for cloth, particularly for English blankets. He also erected a waulk mill, to promote this useful undertaking ; but his death marred the progress of those public spirited schemes. He built also an extensive brewery, which is still carried on with great success; and great quantities of the ale and porter, brewed in it, are exported to England. We have likewise a corn mill and a good bleachfield in the parish.

Roads.—The roads are very bad. They are repaired by a conversion of the statute labour. Last winter, however, (1792-3), an act of parliament was obtained for making several roads near Kelso, and establishing toll-bars. By this act, three new roads will be made through this parish, which will be of great service in this part of the country, where they have been much wanted for these many years past.

Church.—The church is very small, was built about 34 years ago, and is very insufficient. There are some Quakers and Episcopalians, but no Roman Catholics. The number of Seceders is not easily ascertained, as all the denominations of them have houses of worship in Kelso, and Edenham lies so near it, that many of the inhabitants attend these meetings; but all the principal farmers attend the Established Church. The King is undoubted patron.

Heritors and Poor.—The number of heritors are four. As none of them reside in the parish, the collections at the church doors are but trifling; in consequence of which the poor are obliged to be maintained by assessments, regularly laid on for their support.

Eminent Men.—Mr. JAMES THOMSON, the celebrated author of *the Seasons*, &c. was the son of the reverend Mr. Thomas Thomson, the second minister of this parish after the Revolution, and was born at Edenham in the year 1700. It is unnecessary here to enlarge upon the merits of an author so well known, and whose genius and abilities do so much honour to his native country. A proposal was made, some years ago, to erect a monument to his memory, on Edenham Hill, within view of the manse; but the plan has not yet been accomplished. Several noblemen and gentlemen, however, with a laudable zeal for the literary fame of their country, have met annually at Edenham, for some years past, to celebrate Thomson's birth day, as well as with a view to forward the execution of that design.

Antiquities.—There is a small rising ground, W. from the village, called the *Picts Know*; out of which, some years ago, were dug three stone coffins, with an urn in one of them. The Know is since inclosed, and planted with trees*.

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* A farm in this parish is named *Comb-flat*, which seems to be so called from its containing extensive earthen mounds, called *Comb-knows*. As, before the union of the kingdoms, this was the warlike part of the country, these tumuli seem to have been raised by art, as means of defence.

NUMBER XXIV.

PARISH OF GIRTHON.

(County and Presbytery of Kirkcudbright—Synod of Galloway.)

By the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM THORBURN.

Situation and Extent.

GIRTHON lies about 6 miles N. W. of the burgh of Kirkcudbright. It nowhere assumes a regular figure. The extent from N. to S. is about 20 miles; and the breadth, from E. to W., from 3 to 5.

Soil and Surface.—These are extremely varied. For about 10 miles from its northern, and all along its eastern boundary, it is bleak, unequal, hilly, and covered with heath. For 10 miles to the S., within a mile of *the Fleet*, it presents a beautiful level surface, which yields grain and grass of an excellent quality. Except the extensive wood of *Castramont*, there is little natural wood; though the soil seems highly favourable for rearing trees of every species.

Climate.

Climate.—The air and climate vary with the soil and surface. In the high lands, and to the E. and N., they are cold and unpleasant: In the low lands, and towards the S., they are mild and agreeable. Though the frequent rains render the soil there rather moist; yet, from its being defended with the hills and high lands, exposed to the sun, and open to the sea breezes, the atmosphere which covers it, is, in general, pure and healthy. The diseases, which appear here, are in no respect peculiar. They are such as afflict the inhabitants of all the southern districts of Scotland.

Cultivation, Animals, Fuel, &c.—The system of agriculture is the same here, that is generally adopted by all who cultivate land near the sea coast*. The horses are mostly bred by the farmers. The cows are of the well known Galloway breed. The sheep are of the small moor kind.—various sorts of game and wild animals are found here: Grouse, black-cocks, partridges, hares, rabbits, woodcocks, badgers, foxes and polecats.—Peats, the fuel used by the farmers and cottars, are dear, owing to the distance of the mosses, and the bad roads which lead to them.

Rivers, Fish, and Lakes.—The *Fleet*, which bounds this parish to the W. is a beautiful winding river, and disembogues itself into Wigton Bay. There is a salmon fishing belonging to it, now of little value; owing probably to the lime imported, and to a soap house lately erected on its banks. The lakes are, *Loch-Fleet*, the source of the river, abounding with trouts: *Loch-Scero*, abounding with pike: *Loch-Grunnock*, about 3 miles long, and, in some places, 1 mile broad, remarkable

* For a description of the implements of husbandry, manure, crops, &c. a reference is made to the statistical accounts of the neighbouring parishes; particularly, *Numbers I., II., III. and IV. of this Volume.*

remarkable for its vast numbers of charr, a species of fish rare in Scotland: and *Loch-Whinnyan*, abounding with trouts. This lake, it deserves notice, furnishes the cotton mills at Gatehouse with a copious stream of water; the course for conveying which from the lake, was cut a long way through a hill, at the expence of above 1200l.

Proprietor, Mansion-House, &c.—The whole parish is the property of James Murray, Esq. of Broughton, whose mansion-house, *Cally*, stands about an English mile below Gatehouse, at a small distance from the borders of the Fleet. The situation is extremely pleasant. The house is modern, and amongst the largest, and most princely, in the south of Scotland. The place is laid out on an extensive scale. About 1000 acres are in planting, gardens, orchards, and pleasure-grounds. The gardens were made at a great expence, and have equalled the proprietor's expectations. Besides the common fruits, they yield apricots, figs, grapes, and nectarines, equal to any in the hot-houses of this country. There is also a deer park, well stocked; the venison of which is reckoned equal, if not superior to any in Britain.

Rent, Leases, Servitudes, &c.—The total valuation of the parish, in the cefs-book, is 3281l. 3s. 6d. Scotch, or 273l. 8s. 7½d. Sterling. The present rent is about 3500l., including a moderate average rent for the lands not in lease. The leases are generally given for 19 years. The greater part of the moor lands are let by the lump: The low lands bring about 10s. per acre: The fields, near Gatehouse, from 1l. to 2l. The oppressive practice of thirlage prevails, and hurts their lands. The barony of Castramont is thirled to the mill of Kellereen, in the parish of Anwoth; and the barony of Cally to the mill of Burby, in this parish. The proprietor has considerably

considerably lessened the multures of the mill on his own estate, to the no small encouragement of its agriculture. The cotton works established at Gatehouse, have much advanced the wages of farm servants.

Population.—As no regular register has been kept, the ancient state of the population cannot be ascertained precisely. From Dr. Webster's report, however, we are certain, that it has increased greatly within these 40 years, even excluding the vast addition made to it, by the new village of Gatehouse. The rest of the parish at present (1792), contains,

		<i>Souls.</i>			<i>Employments.</i>
Males, -	2812	Total, - 580	Weavers,	- - - -	9
Females, -	299		Coopers,	- - - -	1
The return in 1755, was	- 367		Millers,	- - - -	1
			Dyer and apprentices.	- - - -	4
	Increase, - 213		Joiner and ditto,	- - - -	4
When to this is added the number of souls in Gatehouse,	- 1150		Farmers, about	- - - -	200
		The total increase is 1363			

Church and Poor.—The living, every thing included, is about 120l. yearly. The manse was built a considerable time ago, and is in a very uncomfortable state. The church is small, and, from its situation, extremely inconvenient for the bulk of the inhabitants. The weekly collections, fines for irregularities, &c. amount to about 25l. a year. Paupers, to the number of 10, are assisted therewith.

General Character.—Six M'Millanites excepted, the tenants and cottagers are all Presbyterians. Much praise is due to their religious and moral conduct. A circulation of good officers

offices takes place amongst them: They are candid, sober, and industrious: They affect no parade of sanctity: They have nothing of an indiscreet, or intolerant zeal: Firm to the religion of their country, "they meddle not with those that are given to change."

GATEHOUSE OF FLEET.

Situation and Origin.—This neat and beautifully situated village stands to the S. W. of the parish, on the banks of the Fleet. Its increase has been rapid. Though the first house in it was built as an inn, not above 30 years ago, it now contains upwards of 160 houses, and 1150 inhabitants. The cotton works, which have swelled it to its present size and population, promise soon to give it a rank among the towns distinguished for industry and commerce.

Houses, Rents, &c.—The village is held in feu from Mr. Murray. The ground stands, of 30 feet in front, 150 back, for a kitchen garden, paid, till within these few years, only 1s. annual feu-duty each. Since that period, they pay at the rate of 3d. per foot in front, with 150 back. The houses are built of brick, or of whin-stone, and are mostly 2 stories high. Owing to the vast influx of inhabitants, they bring a great rent. A house of 3 stories, with but indifferent convenience and accommodation, will let so high as 30l. yearly. The village is divided into 3 streets, which rise parallel from the river. It is well watered, and allowed to be by far the pleasantest in Galloway. Though its industry has kept it as yet quiet, a burgh police is certainly necessary for the establishing and perpetuating good order. It is matter of pleasure to the inhabitants, that the superior has signified, that his attention shall soon be turned to this important object. It deserves remark,

mark, that there is not a lamp-post in any of its streets. This, with many other disadvantages, would be attended to, and remedied, by several respectable inhabitants, if they were invested with any external authority.

Inn, Road, &c.—Besides a good inn, there are about 15 houses in which spiritous liquors are sold. The road, betwixt Dumfries and Portpatrick, runs through this village, and makes its principal inn well frequented. Two mail coaches arrive here, at 7 o'clock every morning, one from Carlisle, the other from Portpatrick.

Bank, Commerce, Shipping, &c.—A branch of the Paisley Union Bank was lately established here, and transacts business to a considerable amount.—The right of a weekly market, which the village charter gives, has not yet been used. The best frequented markets are, for eight successive Fridays, after the first Friday of winter; and at some of these there is a considerable show of black cattle*. Several vessels, of 80 tons and under, belong to this port. They trade chiefly to the west of Scotland, and to the north of England. One of them trades constantly to London. The commodities imported are, ale, porter, wine, grocery goods, raw hides, tallow, timber, lime, cotton wool, coals, &c. Cotton manufactures, tanned leather, soap, grain, potatoes, &c. are exported.

Manufactures.—Many branches of commerce thrive in Gatehouse. It has a tannery and soapery, both carried on to

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* Butcher meat is in general to be got here. Beef, mutton, veal, and pork, sell from 3½d. to 4½d. the pound; butter, at 6d. the pound; Scotch cheese, at 3d. the pound; The pound to all is 16 oz. Meal is from 1s. 7d. to 2s. the stone.

a good extent. But its industry is principally directed to the manufacturing of cotton wool. Besides about 50 mules and jennies, managed by private hands, it has 4 mills in constant employment; and will probably have 2 more in a short time. Of those built, the 2 largest are twist mills; the 2 others are mule mills. The mule mills are 3 stories high, 70 feet by 20; have about 130 mules each, which give employment to upwards of 100 labourers. The largest of the twist mills is 4 stories high, 120 feet by 30; and employs about 300 labourers. The other twist mill is 3 stories high, 84 feet by 32; and is not yet completely set agoing. There is also a cotton factory, in which are wove muslins, and other cottons, of neat patterns and good fabric *.

Fuel.—Coals are the general fuel here. They are imported from Whitehaven, Newcastle, &c. and run from 30s. to 40s. the ton. Notwithstanding the extravagant price of this necessary article, the inhabitants are often in absolute want. This tends to hurt the manufactures, as it causes many of the labourers to remove; and will, when known, prevent strangers from settling. Employers would therefore consult their own interest, would they adopt some method of supplying their workmen constantly, and upon as moderate terms as possible. The duty upon coals was a frequent, and just cause of complaint, which, since the commencement of this account, has been happily removed.

School.

* The cotton workers are paid, some by the day, others by the pound, others by the piece. A picker will earn 1s. per day; a carder 1s. 2d.; a spinner 2s. 6d. One male, house, or farm servant, has from 7l. to 9l. a year; a female ditto from 3l. to 4l. Masons and carpenters have from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per day, without meat; tailors 8d. per day, with meat. Shoemakers, weavers, &c. are paid according to the quantity and quality of their work.

School.—There is one school here, very well endowed. It is subject of regret, however, that so large a parish has only one. This is a great disadvantage to the farmers and cottagers children, who cannot travel as far as Gatehouse. What deserves commendation is, that the schoolmaster has, though with little encouragement, opened a Sunday school, for the instruction of such children as are obliged, from the straitened circumstances of their parents, to attend the cotton mills during the rest of the week.

Population and Employments.—At Whitsunday 1792, the number and professions of the inhabitants of the village stood as follows :

Males, - - 549	Carriers, - - 2	Smiths, - - 17
Females, - 601	Soap-boilers, - 2	Bricklayers, - 19
—	Chaise-drivers, - 3	Tanners, - - 4
Souls, - 1150	Slaters, - - 2	Shoemakers, - 17
Minister, - 1	Founders, - - 2	Tailors, - - 15
Surgeons, - 2	Saddler, - - 1	Weavers, - - 10
Schoolmaster, - 1	Glover, - - 1	Ditto, female, - 1
Writers, - - 4	Butchers, - - 4	Ditto, employed in
Excisemen, - 3	Barber, - - 1	the cotton manu-
Shopkeepers, - 13	Stocking-weavers, - 2	factory, - - 21
Innkeepers and	Masons*, - 24	People employed in
whisky sellers, - 13	Turners, - - 5	the cotton works,
Bakers, - - 4	Joiners, - - 24	in general, above 500

Character and Manners.—As the mixture, of which the population of Gatehouse is composed, has, as yet, assumed no uniform

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* Among these, and all the following professions, journeymen and apprentices are included.

uniform or regular appearance, general lineaments cannot be given of its character and manners. This, however, may be safely asserted, of the inhabitants, that they are attentive, and industrious. The greater part of them are Presbyterians; And even those of them who belong to the Church of England, whose moral conduct is sober and orderly (having no minister of their own communion), regularly attend the established place of worship; receive the sacraments as dispensed by the Church of Scotland; walk by its rules, and submit peaceably to its discipline.

NUM.

[NUMBER XXV.]

PARISH OF OXNAM.

(County of Roxburgh—Presbytery of Jedburgh—Synod of
Merse and Tiviotdale.)

By the Rev. Mr. JOHN HUNTER, Minister.

[WITH A MAP OF THE PARISH.]

Origin of the Name, &c.

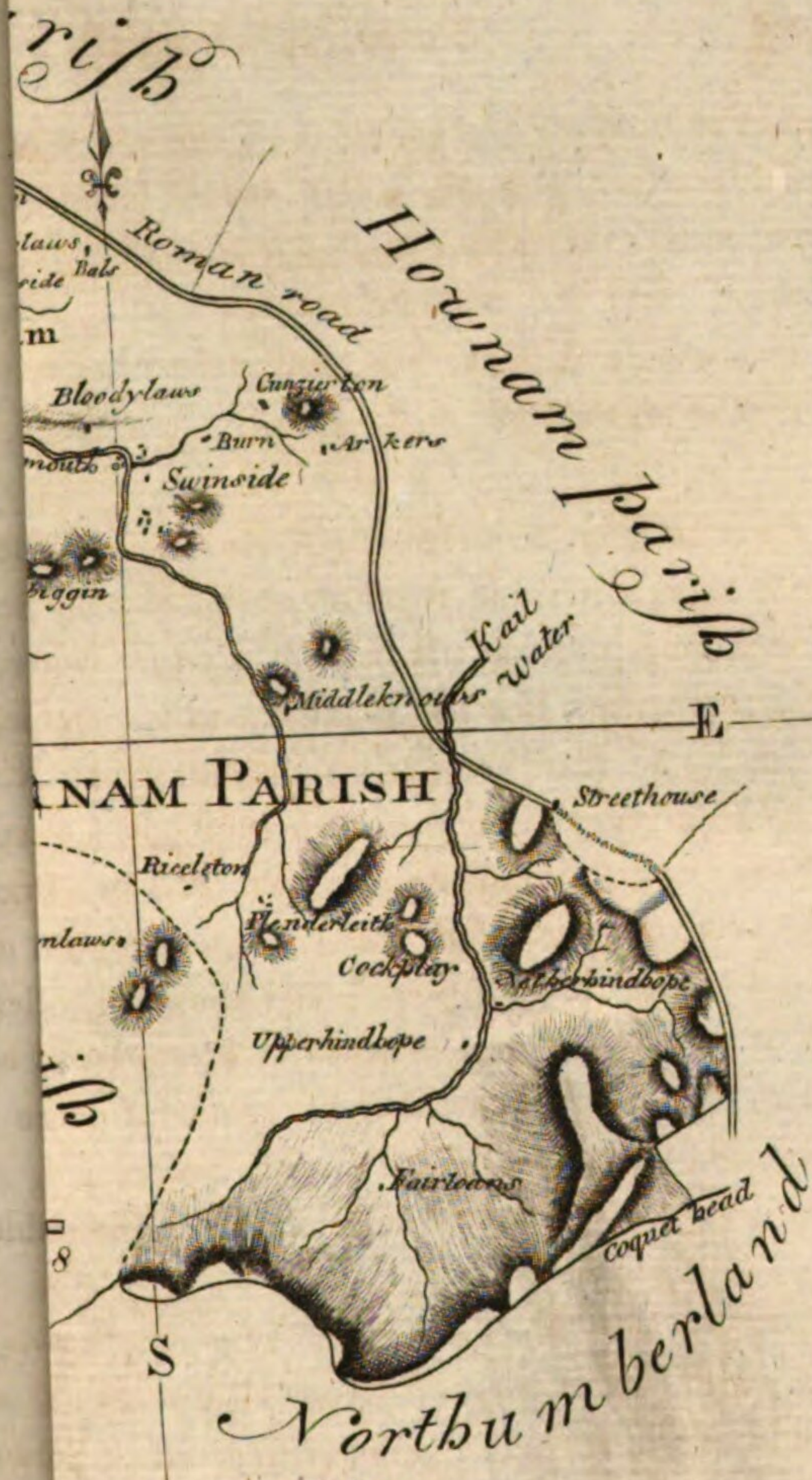
IN all ancient writings, the name of this parish is spelled OXENHAM, whereof the present mode of spelling it is an abbreviation. Several names in the parish are evidently taken from animals, and most probably from those, for which the various places have been most eminent: As *Hindhope*, from hind, where there had been a forest; *Swinside*, from swine, one of these having been kept in many places by every cottager; *Stotfield*, from stot, a young bullock; *Oxenham*, from oxen and ham, which, in the Saxon language, signifies a hamlet or village. The names of many other places describe and express their local situations, and other concomitant circumstances. Thus, *Millheugh*, the heugh by the mill; *Mossburnford*, through which the burn from Scraesburgh Moss runs,

runs, and where passengers cross the water of *Jed*; *Bloody-laws*, a rising ground, where much blood was shed by the licentious Borderers; *Pearslaws*, another rising ground, where perhaps there had been an orchard; &c. *Plenderleith*, *Riccalton*, and *Dolphiston*, are most probably the names of their original proprietors.

Form, Extent, and General Appearance.—The figure of the parish bears a striking resemblance to that of Scotland. The greatest length, from the head of Coquet water, on the English border, in a line by Swinfield, to Capehope, a farmstead on the N. point of the parish, in a direction N. W. $\frac{1}{2}$ N., is $9\frac{3}{4}$ English miles; the greatest breadth, in a perpendicular direction, from Kaimburnfoot, on the W., in a line by Swinfield, to Conzierton march on the E., is $4\frac{2}{3}$ English miles; on the N. it runs nearly to a point; and about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the S. end, it is only 2 miles broad. The general complexion is rather bleak, interspersed with beautiful green hills, fertile fields, and dark heath; and almost uninclosed. But though it is hilly, yet there are no hills of very considerable magnitude.

Climate, Soil, and Diseases.—The country is damp, and the air often moist, by rains from all directions, and in particular from the E. The rains arising out of Solway Frith, on the S., are conducted, as it were, along the vale of Liddisdale, and frequently fall in great quantities on the adjoining fells, whilst they scarcely touch this parish. The soil is various, admitting both the amusements of pasturage, and the labours of agriculture. At the same time, the agreeable interchange of hill, dale, and streams of water, gives a vibration to the air which renders it healthy, and free from agues. Certain it is, however, that rheumatisms, consumptions, and nervous fevers are pretty frequent.

Rivers



Gavin sculp^t

Rivers and Fish.—The river Jed runs along the W. boundary 2 miles. Oxnam water has its source about 2 miles from the S. end of the parish, runs N. by Oxnam, and, after a course of $11\frac{3}{4}$ miles, wherein there are many beautiful serpentine windings, falls into Tiviot below Crailing. Both the Coquet and the Kail, arise in that lofty ridge of mountains, lying in a direction betwixt N. and E., which separates Scotland and England from each other. The Coquet bounds the parish for a mile on the S., the only point in which it touches Scotland; and, after receiving a vast number of smaller streams, precipitating themselves from the mountains, quickly swells into a considerable river, which takes an easterly direction through Northumberland, and discharges itself into the British Ocean, betwixt Alnwick and Coquet Isle. The Kail, after running the breadth of the parish in a N. E. direction, takes its course, of $16\frac{1}{2}$ miles, by Hownam, Morebattle, and Marlefield, and joins the Tiviot a little below Eckford kirk. These all abound in trout of an excellent quality, though, in point of quantity, the Coquet is the most distinguished. Besides, it affords a salmon fishery, many of which spawn about 4 or 5 miles from its head.

Minerals and Mineral Springs.—Attempts have been made to find coal in this parish, as well as in the neighbourhood, but without success. Limestone was found on the W. side of the parish, by Jed; but, being under a deep cover, and at a great distance from coal, the advantage of burning it is very doubtful. There is a chalybeate spring near Fairloans, on the S. end of the parish, to which qualities similar to Gilliland water are ascribed; but little of it has ever been used.

Perennial and Migratory Birds.—Game abounds here; amongst which may be reckoned the beautiful black-cock and grouse.

grouse. The woodcock, and fieldfare appear in the beginning of October, and remain during winter. The curlew, the green and the grey plover, come in March, breed in the moors, and go in the latter end of harvest. The cuckoo, swallow, dottle, and land and water rail, appear in May, hatch their young, and then disappear.

Population.—The population of Oxnam has decreased within these 40 years †.

The return to Dr. Webster, in the year 1755, was - 760

The present number of inhabitants (April 1793), is - 690

Decrease, - - - 70

POPULATION TABLE of the Parish of OXNAM.

AGES.	Nº Tot.	EMPLOYMENTS, &c.	Tot.
Under 10 years of age, -	175	Resident heritors, -	2
From 10 to 20, -	124	Minister of the parish, -	1
— 20 to 30, -	103	Students in divinity, -	3
— 30 to 40, -	77	Carpenters, -	3
— 40 to 50, -	74	Mason, -	1
— 50 to 60, -	44	Smiths, -	3
— 60 to 70, -	52	Weavers, -	5
— 70 to 80, -	31	Taylor, -	1
— 80 to 90, -	9	Apprentices, -	5
— 90 to 100, -	1	Day labourers, -	12
	— 690	Male labouring servants, -	53
		Female ditto, -	33
		Tenants, -	25
		In their families, -	109
	— 690	Herds, -	13
		In their families, -	44
		Wives, children and friends	
		of tradesmen, cottagers,	
		&c. -	377
	— 690		— 690
		Average	

† This decrease of the population has been chiefly occasioned by the monopoly of

Average of births*, for the last 10 years,	-	-	-	-	-	15
----- marriages,	-	-	-	-	-	5
----- produce of each †,	-	-	-	-	-	7
----- of deaths ‡,	-	-	-	-	-	6

Villages.—OXNAM was once large and populous; but, at present, there are hardly cottagers in it sufficient for the proper culture of the land, and only 4 tradesmen. *Newbigging* has been possessed by portioners, who hold of the Marquis of Lothian, since 1611. The sole property of it, however, falls to his Lordship at Martinmas 1815, according to the decision of Lord Justice Clerk, to whom it was referred by both parties. *Swinside, Dolphiston, and Mossburnford*, are inconsiderable villages.

Church, &c.—The church was built in 1738, has undergone considerable alterations, and is in pretty good repair §. The
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of farms. Not to multiply instances, in the village of Oxnam, between 60 and 70 years ago, there were 22 tenants, who kept about 16 ploughs, drawn by 2 oxen and 2 horses, driven by a boy; whereas now, 3 persons occupy the whole, and have only 7 ploughs, drawn by 2 horses.

* The parish register was accurately kept, from 1700 to 1710, during which, the births amounted to 398, annual average 40 nearly. Since that period, the register has not been so accurate; occasioned, chiefly, by the neglect of parents to save a very trifling expence. Within the last 10 years, the annual average of births has been about 15, of which only 10 are registered.

† There is an instance of one marriage producing 22 births, and of 2 marriages out of these, producing each 15.

‡ During the above period, the mortcloth has been used 107 times, 90 of which were for interments in this church-yard. There is a stone in the church-yard, bearing the ages of a father and mother, 2 sons, a daughter-in-law, and 3 grandchildren, amounting to 618, average 77 years; the oldest of whom was 98, and the youngest 70.

§ There is a remarkably distinct echo from the church to a small eminence, 170 yards directly E. of it, in the level of the gallery.

manse was built much about the same time, and has often been repaired at a great expence. The Crown and the Marquis of Lothian both gave presentations to each of the 4 last ministers. The living consists of 30 bolls of barley, 21 bolls 1 firloft 1½ stone of oatmeal, Tiviotdale measure †, and 30l. 2s. 2½d. Sterling in money *. The glebe, measuring 12 English acres, is worth about 14l. There are 2 church-yards, one at the kirk, and one at Plenderleith, about 4 miles S. of it; where, in all probability, there has been a residing vicar. The minister has also the privilege of turf, alternately, from 3 stock farms belonging to the Marquis of Lothian. A considerable proportion of the inhabitants of this parish are connected with the dissenting meetings in Jedburgh.

School.—The schoolmaster's salary is 5l. 11s. 1½d., and he has 4l. 3s. 4d., interest of money mortified by Lady Yester, for teaching poor children; 4l. 15s. for collecting poor's rates; and, being clerk to the session and heritors, 4d. for every registration and extract, and 1s. 6d. for each proclamation. The school is in general well attended. The wages are, 1s. per quarter for English, 1s. 6d. for English and writing, and 2s. 6d. for arithmetic. The higher branches are taught by agreement. The above is the minimum legal salary of Scotland, and the school wages are still the original appointment. As the value of money is now so much sunk, and as the wages of all the other classes are greatly increased, an augmentation of the schoolmasters

* The Tiviotdale boll of barley is 5 firlofts, and of meal 16 stone.

† Besides the above stipend, the former ministers let in lease to the Duke of Roxburgh, during their respective incumbencies, the vicarage tithes of three stock farms, now let at 1000l., for a grassum of 1000l. Scotch, and an yearly feu-duty of 100l. Scotch. His Grace, wishing to convert the grassum and rent into an yearly stipend, took no lease from the present incumbent; and, it being a point of law, it is now depending before the Court of Session.

schoolmasters salaries, and school fees, seems to be indispensibly necessary.

Poor.—In consequence of a legal intimation of 10 free days, the heritors, tenants, and kirk-session hold meetings about the terms of Candlemas, Whitsunday, Lammas and Martinmas. Upon the day of meeting they choose a preses; after which their clerk reads the minutes of last sederunt, when they proceed to the roll of the poor, consider their circumstances individually, and appoint them corresponding alimments. The inrolled poor amount to 24; and the quarterly assessment for their relief is, at present, about 19l., being of late greatly increased, by the high prices of provisions, as well as by the advanced age, and growing infirmities of most of them. The highest yearly allowance for a single person is 4 guineas, and for a frail old couple 6l. 9s. But when any person is so circumstanced as to require a nurse, the heritors provide one. In order to their enrolment they must give inventories of their effects, which become the legal property of the heritors, and are exposed to sale at their death. The heritors, steadily and uniformly, insist upon having these inventories, both for enlivening their own industry, and for stimulating their children and near relations to give them aid. It is much to be regretted, that a taste for finery, inconsistent with their station, prevents many from relieving their aged and indigent parents, and other near relations, and exposes them to want, upon the approach of sickness or old age; while, at the same time, it deprives them of a luxury, far superior to that of superfluous ornament, the GODLIKE PLEASURE of dispelling grief, and COMMUNICATING HAPPINESS. The assessment is divided amongst the heritors, according to their valued rents; and the proportion which falls to each is paid, one half by the proprietor

prietor himself, and the other by his tenants, in proportion to their real rents*.

Heritors and Rents.—There are 7 heritors; but only 2 reside. The valued rent of the parish is 14,101l. 10s. 8d. Scotch, and the real rent about 3,670l. Sterling. The yearly rent of the arable land is from 10s. to upwards of 20s. per acre, and of stock land from 3s. to 3s. 6d. per acre. Farms are rented from 40l. to about 600l. per annum. Two considerable stock farms are possessed by tenants, who do not reside.

Produce, Cattle, Provisions, &c.—The parish contains fully 20,500 English acres†, which are laid out, nearly, in the following manner:

STATE OF AGRICULTURE IN SPRING 1793.

	Eng. Acres.		Eng. Acres.
In wheat, - - -	† 56	Brought forward, - - -	1,685
— oats, - - -	820	In pasture, - - -	18,815
— barley, - - -	220		—
— pease, - - -	140	Total, - - -	20,500
— turnips, - - -	140		
— potatoes, - - -	85		
— flax, - - -	14		
— sown grass, - - -	140		
— firs, - - -	120		
Carry forward, - - -	1,685		

NUMBER OF CATTLE.

Horses, - - -	161
Cows, &c. - - -	449
Sheep, about - - -	15,000

PRICES

* Dame Margaret Kerr, Lady Yester, by her letters of mortification, dated 4th November 1630, and 14th March 1638, caused to be built a school, and a schoolmaster's house, at Oxnam bridge end, and little dwelling houses, for accommodating 4 poor people, commonly called *alms houses*, at Oxnam Rawfoot; and likewise mortified 1000l. Scotch, the annual rent of which being 4l. 3s. 4d., together with the weekly collections, is distributed, in small proportions, amongst such indigent poor as are not on the roll.

† There is no map of the parish, distinct from Mr. Stobie's of the county; but all the heritors, except one, have accurate plans of their estates.

‡ The above calculations were made from the quantity of seeds sown, in the following

PRICES OF GRAIN AND CATTLE.

					In 1763.			In 1792.		
					<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Wheat, per boll, of 4 firlots,	-	-	-	-	1	0	0	1	10	0
Oats, per ditto, of 5 ditto,	-	-	-	-	0	13	0	0	15	0
Barley, per ditto, of 5 ditto,	-	-	-	-	0	13	4	1	0	0
Pease, per ditto, of 4 ditto,	-	-	-	-	0	16	0	1	4	0
Turnips, per English acre,	-	-	-	-				3	0	0
Potatoes, per boll, of 5 firlots,	-	-	-	-				0	7	6
Flax, per stone, of 24 lb.,	-	-	-	-				0	11	6
Calves, unfed,	-	-	-	-				0	5	6
Ditto, sometimes fed to	-	-	-	-				2	10	0
Black cattle, year-olds,	-	-	-	-				1	18	0
Ditto, two-year-olds,	-	-	-	-				2	18	0
Ditto, three-year-olds,	-	-	-	-				5	10	0
Wedders ditto,	-	-	-	-	0	10	9	1	0	0
Ditto, two-year-olds,	-	-	-	-				0	16	0
Draught ewes,	{	from	-	-	0	7	6	0	12	0
		to	-	-	0	10	0	0	15	0

PRICES OF WOOL, CHEESE, &c.

White woof, per stone, of 24 lb. Troy,	-	-	0	11	0	*1	1	0
Laid ditto, per ditto,	-	-	0	5	6	*0	19	0
Ewe cheese, per ditto,	-	-	0	4	6	0	7	9
Cow ditto,	-	-				0	5	0
Butter, in firkins, per ditto,	-	-	0	7	0	0	12	0
Fresh butter, per stone, of 24 oz. per lb.,	-	-	0	6	0	0	10	0

Cultivation.

following manner: It was supposed, that 4 firlots of oats were sown on each English acre: The wheat and pease were proportioned as 6 of oats to 4; and the barley as 10 of oats to 7: $8\frac{1}{2}$ firlots of potatoes plant an acre; and 19 lip-pies of lintseed may be sown on the same quantity of ground.

** To prevent confusion in the table, the highest prices of wool are here stated. White wool sometimes sold at 20s., in 1792, and laid wool sometimes so low as 16s.—Wool is supposed to drop considerably this *clip*, 1793.

Cultivation.—The upper part of the parish, towards the English Border, is found healthy stock land, but very stormy; the hills being high, and the valleys deep and narrow. The hills are mostly green and fertile, with an intermixture of heath, moss, bent, ling, sprat, &c.; partly dry, and partly wet and marshy. The arable land, in this part of the parish, is almost wholly laid into grafs. Towards the middle of the parish they raise rather more corn; but their principal dependence is upon stock. The land is inferior in quality, but not so stormy, as the Border hills. On the lower end of the parish, they depend more upon their crops than upon their flocks. Three small farms in this part of the parish keep no sheep at present.

Improvements.—The stock land has been much improved of late, by draining the wet and marshy grounds; by planting clumps of firs, for *stells* to shelter the flocks in storms; and by inclosing some part of the lands contiguous to the farm houses, for hay to the sheep in severe winters and springs. For a number of years, excellent crops of turnips have been raised on the lower end of the parish, to which the soil, which is dry and gravelly, is well adapted. The lime used for these, and for wheat, is brought, both from Tillside on the E., and from Redwater on the S. A cart load, of 5 bolls, costs 12s.; and 5 loads are commonly spread upon an English acre. The general practice is to allow the sheep to eat them upon the field. Throughout the whole parish, potatoes are raised in such quantities, as to become the principal food of the lower ranks of life for 8 months in the year. They are also used in feeding swine, horses, poultry, &c. and some are sold to the people on the fells.

Sheep &c.—On the upper end of this, and of the neighbouring parishes bordering on Northumberland, the sheep have been greatly improved of late, in shape, in weight, and in quality of wool. This has been effected, partly, by purchasing tups from Northumberland, and other counties in England, or by purchasing from, and exchanging them with each other; and partly, by adopting a different mode of breeding their tups. The farmers of the last generation took their tups out of the whole flock, when they cut their lambs; whereas now, they select a few of their best ewes, and such as have the finest fleece, which they keep apart from the rest of the flock, during the tupping season, with a good fine woolled tup, procured as above; and out of the lambs bred from these, they choose their tup lambs.—There is a good breed of horses in the parish, and many prefer them, with a little blood, for long carriages.

Commerce.—The produce of the lands far exceeds the consumption of the inhabitants. Part of the redundancy is sold at Jedburgh, and part is manufactured at the mills of Swincliffe and Oxnam, and carried over the fells to the stocksmen and their herds. A great quantity of cheese, of butter, and of veal is sold at Jedburgh; the eggs are carried weekly to Berwick, and the poultry, both there and to Edinburgh, by persons who return loaded with salt, groceries, and other commodities, for supplying the inhabitants, and merchants in Jedburgh.

Seed-Time and Harvest.—Wheat is sown from the middle to the close of October; oats, pease, and flax, from the 10th of March to the middle of April; barley, rye-grass and clover, from the middle of April to that of May; potatoes are put into the ground during the same period; and turnips are drilled during the course of June and to the middle of July. The
harvest

harvest begins, for the most part, with September; the corn is all cut in 20 or 21 working days; and, in 5 or 6 after, it is generally secured in the barns, and barn-yards, except when the seasons prove cold and wet.

Implements of Husbandry.—There are 42 ploughs and 52 carts in the parish. The old Scotch plough is entirely laid aside, and the new construction, with metal mould boards, universally adopted. Two stout horses, driven by the ploughman, are quite sufficient, except in a few instances, where 3 horses are used, and a driver. Carts, of a light make, on wheels 4 feet 8 inches high, commonly stayed with iron at each corner, are used for coal and lime; and the long cart with rung and sheth, for corn, peat and turf*.

Wages.—Tradesmen are paid as follows:

Joiners receive per day, without victuals,	-	-	-	L. 0	1	6
Masons,	-	-	-	-	0	1 10
Tailors,	-	-	-	-	0	1 2
Labourers, in summer,	-	-	-	-	0	1 4
———— in winter,	-	-	-	-	0	1 2
A man, in harvest, receives, till the crop be cut, with victuals,	-	-	-	-	1	7 0
And a woman, during the same period,	-	-	-	-	1	1 0
Male servants, per annum, with board,	-	-	-	{ from	6	10 0
	-	-	-	{ to	8	0 0
Female ditto, ditto,	-	-	-	{ from	3	10 0
	-	-	-	{ to	4	10 0

Cottagers are taken bound to weed turnips, and make hay 12 days, at 3d. per day, with their maintenance, and to

* Before the introduction of carts, a clumsy unweildy carriage, upon 2 wheels, drawn by 2 oxen, and 2, or sometimes 4, horses, called a *wain*, was used merely for dragging dung to the fields, and bringing home corn, hay and wood.

to reap in harvest without receiving any thing but their board; for which they possess a house and yard, have one or two *dargs* of turf or peat, which their masters bring home, and give them as much ground as the ashes will cover for sowing barley. They have likewise two lippies of lint-seed sown, and half a firlof of potatoes planted. Their crop, when it is good, constitutes a great part of their living throughout the year; and, in that case, their houses cost them little. Hinds receive 8 bolls of oats, 2 bolls of barley, 1 boll of pease, a cow's grass, and 1l. 5s. for sheep, as the wages of their own labour; and are bound to the same servitude with a cottager for their houses, lint, potatoes, &c. The wages of herds are considerably higher than those of hinds, and differ according to the extent of their charge. They are paid with sheep, and cows, which require a stock at beginning, and subject them to frequent losses.

Antiquities.—The only remains of antiquity are, a chapel at Plenderleith, 3 old forts, and a Roman causeway. The chief fortification is a tower at Dolphiston, said to have been built by one DOLPHUS, from whom it took its name. The walls are from 8 to 10 feet thick, built of hewn stone, and so closely cemented with lime, that it is found more difficult to obtain stones for building from it, than from a quarry. It has been extensive, and divided into small apartments by stone partitions. Several vaulted apertures are in the middle of the walls, large enough for a small bed, and some of them so long, as to be used by the tenants for holding their ladders. On a rising ground, a little to the S. there is an area of a chain square, which is said to have been a watch tower or light house, and shows that Dolphiston Tower had been used as a fort, or place of refuge. The tower on Mossburnford ground, N. from Dolphiston, which is nearly entire, is built and

divided in the same manner, but far inferior in strength*. The Roman road, or causeway, is the eastern boundary of the parish, and runs the whole length of it†. This street has been traced to

* The CRAG TOWER was built on a rock of some eminence, on the E. side of Oxnam water, about 500 yards W. of the church. Within these 20 years, it was a place of the same construction with those already mentioned, but much stronger from its natural situation, being surrounded with water on three sides. In the memory of many now living, there was a pit in the middle of it, which is said to have been a road cut through the rock to the water, by which it was supplied when besieged. It is also said to have been surrounded on the accessible side, with a strong wall, within which the inhabitants of the neighbourhood used to shut up their cattle, to prevent the plunderers from carrying them off in the night. Anciently, the opposite bank of Oxnam water, on the W., was covered with wood, denominated *benwood*, and is said to have been the rendezvous of the inhabitants, to oppose the English freebooters, when the watch word was, a *benwoody*. A quarter of a mile to the W., on Millheugh-farm, there is a hillock, called GALLALA-KNOW, which is said to have been used in the Border wars as a place of execution. Many buildings, similar to those described, are scattered over the country, especially on the Border, which were called *peels*.—There is a tradition, that, during the animosities between the two kingdoms, one of the principal bells, now upon the cathedral of Durham, was carried from this parish. Certain it is, that OXNAM is inscribed upon it; but whether it be the name of this parish, or of the founder, is not determined. Some are of opinion, that as Oxnam was subject to the abbacy of Jedburgh, the Crag Tower might be a religious house, and the bell is said to have been hung upon it. Before the union of England and Scotland, which seem destined, by their situation to constitute a mighty monarchy, among the military and turbulent Borderers, so little acquainted with the arts of peace, and so averse to industry and labour, justice was feebly, irregularly, and partially administered; and great oppression and violence prevailed, when rapine was the only trade, and bloodshed often led the way to the successful prosecution of it. By the interposal of the authority of both houses of parliament, the reign of good laws is established, tending, in an eminent degree, to form habits of order, industry, and virtue, to increase the happiness of individuals, to promote national prosperity, and to introduce a taste for general improvement, throughout this, as well as other parts of the kingdom.

† A number of years ago, in a field belonging to Cap-hope, on the N. point of

to Boroughbridge in Yorkshire, and has its direction to the Lothians by Boswel's Green, where one of the largest fairs in Scotland is annually held, on the 18th of July.

Roads.—Formerly, the statute labour, for county roads, from 20 to 22 feet broad, was levied from the number of men and horses, of late at 1s. for a man, and 1s. 6d. for a horse. In consequence of an application from the gentlemen of this county, a few years ago, an act of parliament was granted to collect it from the tenants according to their valued rents, but not to exceed 10s. Sterling upon the 100l. Scotch. The county is divided into four districts, *Jedburgh, Kelso, Hawick,* and *Melrose*, and each of them has a constable for inspecting the roads, and for seizing vagrants. Though these do not all collect to the full amount specified in the act, yet it is found necessary to do so in this district of Jedburgh, on account of its being intersected by fewer public roads. A road is now making, from *Wooden-burn Bridge*, in the parish of Crailing, and Kaimburnfoot in this parish, connecting the great turnpike roads from Kelso to Hawick, and from Edinburgh, by Jedburgh, to Newcastle. In order to complete it speedily, some public spirited gentlemen have taken out a cash account, to be paid off every half year with the statute money. Attention has also been paid to other roads in the parish, whereby

T t 2 communication

of the parish, contiguous to the road, a head piece of plate iron, supposed to be Roman, was turned up by the plough, and is in the possession of the present tenant. It weighs $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. avoirdupoise; and, although a little wasted, could never weigh 2 lb.. Its brim is an oval of 7.9 inches by 6.9, without any edges, only bent forward about half an inch, before and on the sides like the brim of a pot. It is 5.9 inches deep, and the top is a very flat Gothic arch, 10.2 inches long, juttet out before and behind. It is evidently hammered, but has not the smallest appearance of any joining. In autumn 1791, a shilling of ROBERT BRUCE was found at a garden in Newbigging, and was sold to GEORGE CURBIE, Esq. advocate.

communication is greatly facilitated. Not long ago, small coal was brought from Ryecheſter, and great coal from Ital, on horſeback, but they are now brought in carts, which have been univerſally adopted ſince the bettering of the roads.

Diſadvantages.—One of the chief diſadvantages, the greateſt part of this pariſh labours under, is its diſtance from coal, which is ſtill, notwithſtanding, the cheapeſt fuel to thoſe who have horſes, but which poor people cannot afford to purchaſe. A two-horſe cart-load of coal, from Ryecheſter, coſts 12s. 6d., and one from Ital coſts about 14s. 6d. Though this pariſh abounds in excellent peats and turf, yet the moſt populous parts have no claim to them, and are but ſcantily ſupplied with turf, of far inferior quality, from a moor, once common, and which ſtill goes by that name. Another growing diſadvantage is, the depopulation of the pariſh, by ſuffering the cottage houſes to fall into decay; whereby the country is deprived of many uſeful members of ſociety, and the tenant of aid for carrying on his labours, eſpecially in harveſt, when he is overtaken by ſtorms, particularly of wind, which often do great and irreparable damage to the valuable productions of the year.

General Character.—The people are induſtrious, ſober, and economical, and ſeem to have no inclination either for a military or a ſeaſaring life. They are friendly to one another, and hofpitable to ſtrangers. The labouring part ſupport their families in a very decent manner, and give their children a tolerable education. Even in 1783, when the penſions of the poor were doubled by the failure of crop 1782, no family in the pariſh ſolicited relief from the heritors, nor were ſupplied with proviſions, at reduced prices, as was the caſe in many other pariſhes.

NUMBER XXVI.

PARISH OF ROSEMARKIE.

(County and Synod of Ross—Presbytery of Chanonry.)

By the Rev. Mr. ALEXANDER WOOD, Minister.

Name and Extent.

THE name of this parish was anciently spelled *Rossmarkie*, and sometimes *Rosemarkie*. The most probable account of the origin of the name is this: To the parish church, in former times, was annexed a steeple, in an elevated and conspicuous station, which being one of the first objects observed by mariners in coming up the Murray Frith, they would naturally say to one another, "*Mark ye Ross!*" which, for the sake of better sound, was turned into *Rossmarkie*. The extent of the parish, from E. to W., is about 6 miles in length; and 3 miles in breadth, from S. to N.

Situation, Soil, Climate, and Diseases.—The situation of the parish is very fine and pleasant, as it rises gradually from the sea; and the hills, both on the S. and N., are for the most part arable,

arable, in summer covered with verdure, and producing rich and early crops. The nature of the soil is various. In the neighbourhood of the town, where there is a large and beautiful flat, well cultivated, it is a fine black mould upon light gravel, which, in moderately rainy seasons, never fails to yield a luxuriant produce of barley and pease, which are the grain principally sown here. In other parts of the parish, the lands lie generally on a deep clay bottom, producing oats in great abundance, that make excellent meal. As the country lies dry, and has the benefit of fine sea breezes, the air is pure and salubrious, so that few contagious distempers make their appearance, and when they do, their progress is quickly checked. The small-pox, that, in former times, used to make the greatest ravages, is now alleviated by inoculation, to which even the lower ranks of the people begin to be reconciled. In this parish, very few children have died of that distemper for the last 20 years.

Coast, Shell Fish, and Caves.—The coast all along, between Rosemarkie and Cromarty, is bold and rocky. It abounds with romantic views, and frightful precipices. Along these the ivy creeps in ragged cliffs, where hawks and wild pigeons nestle, and

“ Low brow’d rocks hang nodding o’er the deep.”

Crabs and lobsters are dragged from holes among the rocks, with old corn hooks, by country women; and seals are often seen on them, and otters shot, though not very numerous. There are likewise a variety of curious natural caves along the shore, some of them very deep, and one that runs quite through the rock, for about 50 yards, affording an open passage to such as wish to examine it. Some of these have
been

been used as a temporary lodging by fishers, when there was a great run of herring, and others resorted to by smugglers as fit places for concealing of their prohibited articles.

Woods, Fisheries, Ferry, &c.—Though large tracks of the parish were of old covered with wood, it had become quite exhausted. In the course of 20 years back, some considerable plantations of firs have been raised, which are very thriving; and as the parish is but poorly supplied with moss, these will be a useful fund for fuel. There is a salmon fishing at the Point of Chanonry Ness, where the salmon are caught, fresh from the sea, in their highest perfection. About 40 years ago, it was rented at a 100 merks Scotch. It now produces 70l. Sterling. The Point here projects a good way into the sea, and forms a fine curve, which makes it a beautiful object. It terminates the Links of Fortrose, about an English mile in length, and smooth as a carpet. This is fine ground for the *golf*, which is often played here by the gentlemen of the town and country. *The Point* is the situation for the ferry-boat that passes to Fort-George; and so safe is the passage, that there is not an instance of any being lost on it in memory of man.

Agriculture, Produce, and Cattle.—The common Scotch plough is for the most part used in the parish; but some farmers begin to prefer that with the feather sock, as most convenient, especially for turning lee or meadow ground. The number of ploughs in the country and town is reckoned to be about 60. These are commonly drawn by 6, and sometimes 8 middle sized, or rather small oxen, which are found best adapted for steep or hilly lands, and go through their labour with much steadiness. Small horses are employed in carrying manure, yoked in a sort of light sledge, rolling on
wooden

wooden wheels. But where the ground is tolerably level, many farmers now begin to use *coups*, drawn by a couple of oxen, which make the work much easier and more expeditious. Horses are chiefly employed in cultivating the lands about the burgh. The method of farming there, for time immemorial, has been remarkably uniform. It consists of a constant succession of barley; and though the lands be seldom or never rested, it is surprising how much they produce, bearing commonly six or seven returns. When a quantity of sea ware and tangles are thrown ashore (which often happens in a storm), the farmers, in spring especially, are very attentive in gathering it, and spreading it upon their lands; and they reckon it an excellent manure for a barley crop. They seldom take time to mix it in a compost dunghill, though that might better answer the purpose. Of late, they have begun to use the roller, which in light soil they find to be an advantage. In the country part of the parish, the tenants are not so accustomed to raise green crops, but frequently sow oats in the same fields for several years running, which renders them much less productive. A large quantity of potatoes is raised here, of a very free and sweet quality. Some of the farmers have flocks of sheep, of a small kind, which are pastured on heath, and among whins and broom; but their flocks are not numerous*.

Improvements.—Here it may not be amiss to take notice of a small improvement lately made by the minister of the parish, which, in similar operations, may serve as an example and encouragement to others. Very near the manse, on the side of the public road to Fortrose, there was a lake, covering between 3 and 4 acres, in winter filled with water, running
down

* The prices of labour, servants fees, and articles of provision, are much the same as in the neighbouring parishes. Most of them are nearly doubled since the present minister was settled.

down from a hill above it, and kept in by a rising ground on the side contiguous to the king's highway. Owing to this, it was, in the middle, at least four feet deep; and a small boat has been seen paddling through it, with persons in quest of wild ducks. By the stagnation of the water in the heat of summer, and the steeping of lint by the people (which raised a most disagreeable and unwholesome smell), it was often an intolerable nuisance. Many schemes had been formed for draining it, but they were generally thought impracticable. However, the writer of this, considering that his glebe, which lay directly opposite to it, on the other side of the road, was upon a bank of gravel, (having first taken a feu of it from the town, at a reasonable feu-duty), determined to cut a very deep drain across the road into his glebe, so as to command the level of the water (which required about 14 feet in depth), and then to let it off by degrees, in hopes the gravel bank might swallow it. The experiment answered his expectation; and, in the course of less than a month, there was not a drop left in it. He then cut a wide and deep ditch by the side of it, to receive the water as it fell from the hills; and, besides a number of cross drains, filled with stones, he dug under ground an open drain, faced with stone and covered with flags, communicating with the bottom of the ditch, and conveying the water, for more than 150 yards, into the bank of chingle, where it sinks, and never more appears. Sometimes, indeed, on a sudden thaw, or a violent rush from the hills, the drain cannot immediately command the water, and so it breaks out upon the surface; but in a short tract of fair weather it goes down, and leaves a slime, which serves to enrich the soil. These operations were attended with considerable expence; but the success has amply repaid it. From a single boll of Essex oats, sown here in 1789, in scarce an acre and a half, there were actually reaped 22 bolls and 2 firlots, a very extraordinary return. The stalks in many parts were from 6 to

7 feet long. Last season a part of it was laid down with large glossy *black oats*, from a farm in Aberdeenshire*; and though the seed happened to arrive rather too late, it produced a good return. This species of black oats is a new grain in this country, but they are said to meal remarkably well, and a few bolls of them have been circulated to give them a fair trial. It is hoped the length of this article will be excused, as it may incite others to make the like useful experiments.

Population.—An exact enumeration of the inhabitants of the parish was made out last spring. From the loss of some of the old registers, and the negligence of the people in registering the births of their children, the baptisms cannot be stated with perfect accuracy. No register of burials has been kept in the parish; but as its situation is uncommonly healthy†, these rather fall below the ordinary proportion. In most years, the births of males and females are nearly equal; but upon the whole, the males are most numerous. All the inhabitants are of the Established Church, excepting one or two families in the town of Chanonry, who are of the Episcopal persuasion.

The statement, therefore, for 1793, stands thus;

Number of examinable persons†,	-	-	-	-	1069
———— souls at and below 7 years of age,	-	-	-	-	193
Total number of inhabitants,	-	-	-	-	1262
The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was	-	-	-	-	1140
Increase,	-	-	-	-	122
The town of Chanonry contains,	-	445	}	-	1262
The town of Rosemarkie, ———	-	296		-	
The country part of the parish, ———	-	521		-	
					Annual

* Viz. MONKSHILL, a farm belonging to Dr. ANDERSON, Editor of the *BEE*, who, in an essay on the different species of oats, strongly recommends these black oats as of excellent quality, which was the reason of sending for them.

† In the memory of the present minister, within little more than 20 years, 10 persons

Annual average of births,	-	34	Tailors,	-	-	-	4
----- marriages,	-	7	Masons,	-	-	-	2
Proprietors, great and small,	-	22	Glovers,	-	-	-	2
Merchants in the towns,	-	7	Smith,	-	-	-	1
Shoemakers and their apprentices*,	32		Butchers,	-	-	-	2
Weavers and their apprentices*,	35		Writer,	-	-	-	1
Square-wrights,	-	-	Teachers,	-	-	-	4
Mill-wrights,	-	-	Minister,	-	-	-	1

Heritors and Rents.—The principal heritors are, Alexander Ross, Esq. of Cromarty; the heirs of Abraham Lesly, Esq. of Findracy; Sir Roderick M'Kenzie of Scalwell, Bart.; Andrew Millar of Kincurdy; Roderick M'Kenzie of Flowerburn; and about the burgh, Seaforth, the heirs of the late Sir Alexander Grant of Dalvey, Bart.; Duncan Forbes of Wellfield, and about 14 other small heritors, who are possessed of burgage lands and tenements. None of the principal heritors reside in the parish. The total valued rent is 3753l. 13s. 4d. Scotch; the real rent is about 1350 bolls of grain, and above 500l. Sterling in money. About the burgh, lands are rented from

U u 2

30s.

persons have died in the parish, aged 90 and upwards; 3 are now living 90 years old, and about 30 between 70 and 80. One vigorous old man of 87 put off his wig last year, and has now a set of venerable grey locks. He was in Edinburgh at the hanging of Captain Porteous, which, he says, he well deserved, as a sweet-heart of his was wounded by the firing.

* * It has been remarked, that for ages past, the greater part of the inhabitants, of the lower class, in Chanonry, have been shoemakers, and, in Rosemarkie, weavers; and they commonly train their children to the same occupations. The shoemakers not only furnish shoes for the parish, but carry a parcel weekly for sale to Inverness, though they complain that the tanners enjoy almost all their profits. The weavers are constantly employed in working linen, a considerable quantity of which is sold at the two annual fairs, which circulates a good deal of money in the place. They raise and manufacture the flax themselves from which the linen is made.

30s. to 40s. per acre (though not inclosed); and in the country, good arable ground draws from 15s. to 20s.

Burgh.—The town of ROSEMARKIE, though not large, is of considerable antiquity. It was erected into a royal burgh by Alexander King of Scotland;—which of them is not specified, but it was probably Alexander II. About a mile to the W. of it, stands the town of *Chanonry*, so called from its being the chanonry of Ross, where the bishop formerly had his residence, and which is now the presbytery seat. It was united to the burgh of Rosemarkie, by a charter granted by King James II. anno 1444, under the common name of *Fortross*, now softened into *Fortrose*; which charter was ratified by King James VI., anno 1592, and confirmed in a still more ample form, by the same monarch, in the year 1612. These charters bear, that it was to be “entitled to all the privileges, “liberties and immunities, granted to the town of Inverness.” Fortrose is then spoken of, as a town flourishing in the arts and sciences, having been at that time the seat of divinity, law and physic, in this corner of the kingdom*.

Court Hill.—Above Rosemarkie there is a circular hill, quite level on the top, which seems to have been artificial. It

* About 6 years ago, a parcel of silver coins were found in a small cairn of stones, in a moor, about a mile from Rosemarkie. They were mostly shillings of Queen Elizabeth, with a mixture of other coins, and particularly some beautiful ones of James I. and Charles I. of different sizes. It is probable they were deposited there in the time of the civil war, and may have been brought to the country by the gallant Marquis of Montrose, or some of his followers. Most of them are in the possession of Mr. Wood, the minister of the parish. About 200 more silver coins were found lately, in a massy copper jug of an antique form, in digging up the foundation of an old house at Chanonry. They were coined in the reign of Robert King of Scots, and are nearly of the size of a British shilling.

It has been always called the *Court Hill*. In ancient times, it was probably the place where courts were held, for the administration of justice.

Cathedral, &c.—Only a small part of the ancient cathedral* now remains. This seems to have been a wing that ran from E. to W., with an arched roof, about 100 feet in length, and 30 in breadth. It had a communication, by entries or porches, with the main body of the cathedral. It was preserved and repaired, by some of the bishops, since the Restoration, as a place for public worship; but now it has gone much to decay†; and as the roof is in danger of falling in, it is quite deserted. It is still used as a burial place by the M'Kenzies, and other old families in this country. No inscriptions are to be found about it worth notice, excepting one on a large old bell,

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* Though the Bishop of Ross was originally styled *Episcopus Rosmarkiensis*, the cathedral church stood in the town of CHANONRY, in a spacious square. Here the bishop resided, with a number of his clergy; so that there is scarce a house in the burgh, of any great value, but was formerly a manse belonging to some of the chapter, as appears by the ancient charters and infeftments. The episcopal see was founded by David I. king of Scotland; but there is no certain account at what period the cathedral was built, though it is said to have been a fine one, with a lofty steeple. Bishop Leslie also takes notice of the palace, which stood at a little distance from the houses of the canons; and he represents it, in his time, as a splendid and magnificent building.

† It is highly probable, that this cathedral, at the Reformation, had suffered the fate of many others, though it be a current tradition in the place, that the greater part of it, together with the bishop's palace, already mentioned, was pulled down in the time of Oliver Cromwell. By his order, the stones were carried by sea to Inverness, about the distance of 8 miles, for erecting a fort there, called *Cromwell's Fort*, whereof the ditch and ramparts are still discernible. No chartulary belonging to the bishopric has been found in Scotland. It is probable that Lesly, the last Popish bishop of Ross, and the zealous advocate for the unfortunate Queen Mary, when he was forced to go abroad, carried all the writs of the diocese with him, either to France, or to Brussels, where he died; and where these parchments may still be mouldering in dust and solitude.

bell, now hung in a small modern spire. It bears the name of Mr. THOMAS TULLOCH, as bishop of Ross, and declares the bell to have been “dedicated to the most holy MARY and “the blessed BONIFACE*, *Anno Dominy 1460.*” There are some stone coffins in niches † by the inside of the wall, with figures of the bishops in their canonicals, elegantly cut in stone; but they are much defaced by time, and no name or year is to be seen on them. In the direction of the main body of the cathedral at the E., and detached from its remains, stands a house that was probably the vestry. It contains a vault below, with a strong arched roof, now converted into a *prison*;

* The favourite saint and patron of the place, by every ancient monument, appears to have been St. Boniface. This is quite a different person from St. Boniface, archbishop of Mentz, consecrated by Pope Gregory II., and erroneously supposed, by some of our Scotch writers, to be the same with the other. The history of our saint, according to tradition, is simply this. In the year 693, or, as others say, about the year 697, Boniface, an Italian, a grave and venerable person, came to Scotland, to make up our acquaintance with the church of Rome. He built, to the memory of St. Peter, a church where he landed, at the mouth of a little water, betwixt the shires of Angus and Mearns; erected another church at Felin, a third at Restennoth, and a fourth at Rosemarkie; where, being taken with the pleasantness of the place, he thought fit to reside, and was buried there. Bishop Lesly speaks of Rosemarkie as decorated with the relicts of the saint, and the very ancient sepulchres and monuments of him and his parents; whence it would seem, that he had brought his parents from Italy with him, in this pious expedition.

† Besides this famous saint, tradition reports, that there was buried in this place a Danish chief, of a large size, who fell in a battle fought in the Mull Buy, an extensive moor about 3 miles distant. There are, indeed, evident marks of graves and battles; and some huge piles of stones, in digging among which, several stone coffins have been discovered. In this moor, it is probable, the inhabitants of the country fought the Danes, after they had landed at Cromarty. In the church-yard, too, lies the body of Andrew Murray, a very brave man, regent of the kingdom in the reign of David II., who, after defeating the English in many battles, and quieting the state of the nation (according to Buchanan), having gone to the north, to take a view of his possessions there, died in 1338 and was buried at Rosemarkie.

prison; and the upper part of it, lately repaired, is the *Council Chamber* of the burgh.

From the traditional account of St. Boniface annexed, there is ground to think, the present parish church had its foundation laid by him. In repairing it, anno 1735, in a vault, under a very ancient steeple, there were found some stone coffins of rude workmanship, one of which might probably contain the bones of this venerable apostle. To perpetuate his memory, we have here an annual market, called ST. BONIFACE FAIR, and a well of excellent water is also distinguished by his name. Nay, what is still more, the seal of the old cathedral is yet preserved, and used as the public seal of the burgh, with this inscription, in Saxon characters, ✠ SCAPITULI SCOR,* PETRI ET BONEFACII DE ROSMARKIN. St. Peter stands on it with his keys, and Boniface with his crook, in capital order.—
(See the Copperplate, fronting page 317.)

Church, &c.—The minister's stipend is 6 chalders and 8 bolls of bear, and 3 chalders of meal. But with respect to the payment of it, there are some things a little uncommon. Above 2 chalders are drawn in *teind sheaves*, or in kind, from the lands about the burgh, which, when the decret of locality was passed in 1716, was beneficial to the incumbent; but the tenants, for many years, having turned at least a fourth part of the lands into potatoes and grass, (from which the minister receives *nothing*), his living is thus diminished. He has likewise, on account of these drawn teinds, a valuation in the parish of 104l. Scotch, by which he pays cess, and is burdened with a proportion of the expence of kirk and manse, and schoolmaster's salary. This he reckons a hardship; and as the drawing of the teind from the fields is very troublesome and disagreeable, for this and other reasons, he has been obliged

* This seems to be a contraction for SANCTORUM.

liged to apply to the Court of Session, to have these teinds paid in another manner, and his living put upon a better and more certain footing than it now is †. Kenneth M'Kenzie, Esq. of Cromarty, is reckoned patron of the parish. The present manse was built in 1756, on a rising ground, directly opposite to Fort George; and commands a fine extensive prospect of the Murray Frith, Inverness, Nairn, and the adjacent country. It is just about to be repaired; and is surrounded with the glebe, consisting of about 4 Scotch acres. The church stands about a quarter of a mile distant, in the town of Rosemarkie, on a dry bank of sand, near the sea shore. It was built upon the old plan, uncommonly long and narrow, which is very disagreeable to the preacher; but when the present roof fails, it is hoped the heritors will have it rebuilt, in a more proper and commodious form.

Poor.—The list of the poor in the parish is above 60. In this, however, are included a good number, who, though able to work for themselves, receive small annual supplies, especially when they are known to have young families. These the minister and kirk-session endeavour to proportion to their real necessities. Few or none of them travel about to seek charity in other parishes. The fund for their support arises from the weekly collections in the church, which may amount, throughout the year, to between 8l. and 9l., and a small capital of above 200l., laid out at interest, with some rents of seats in the church. In the late hard years they were forced to encroach upon their capital, for the subsistence, not only of their ordinary poor, but of many other families, then reduced to very straitened circumstances. Besides this, there are two mortifications

† The present minister succeeded his father in 1775. He has 10 children, 4 sons and 6 daughters.

mortifications for the poor of Chanonry; the one by BARBARA M'KENZIE Countess of Seaforth, anno 1680, of 17 bolls 2 firlots land rent, under the administration of the ministers of Rosemarkie and Avoch; and the other of 27 bolls, from some lands disposed by Bishop PATERSON, and others purchased with money mortified by Sir ALEXANDER M'KENZIE of Coul, whereof the magistrates are administrators. These are no doubt useful, but would be much more so, had they been destined, or could they be regulated, so as to operate as an incitement and reward to industry. JOHN FOWLER, Esq. a native of this place, who died last year in Jamaica, has also bequeathed 100l. to the poor, and 100 guineas to the academy.

ACADEMY.—The origin of this institution is a little singular, and will require a particular detail. In the year 1699, THOMAS FORBES, bailie of Fortrose, who seems to have been a good and pious man, mortified (sunk) a bond of 1800 merks Scotch, or 100l. Sterling, for a salary to a catechist and examiner of the inhabitants; until, by the charitable donations of others, such a sum might be contributed, as might produce an annual stipend for a minister of the Established Church, serving the cure in that burgh. This bond was granted to him by ISOBEL Countess of SEAFORTH; and, in the deed of mortification, the ministers of Rosemarkie and Avoch, are left sole administrators of the fund; John Dallas and Hugh Baillie, then writers in Fortrose, having been nominated during their lifetime only. At what time this money was first received, or how it was applied for many years, there is no evidence to be found. It is certain, however, that the mortification was much neglected, and in danger of being entirely lost. Its recovery was greatly owing to the exertions of Mr. ALEXANDER RAY, minister of Avoch, with the assistance of Mr. NICOL SPENCE, then agent for the church, who were forced to raise a process against those

principally concerned in it, which began in 1717, and continued till 1731; when they recovered what they could, and got the money settled to bear interest. On the death of Mr. Ray, in 1735, the fund fell chiefly under the management of Mr. JOHN WOOD, late minister of Rosemarkie, who bestowed on it the utmost attention; and, notwithstanding some misfortunes, to which all human affairs are liable, by the power of accumulation, and the care of the administrators, in laying it out to the best advantage, it is now brought up to a capital of about 2000*l.* Sterling. And, since the year 1746, a small salary of 30*s.* yearly has been also paid from it, to a catechist in the town of Fortrose.

The present administrators, Mr. Alexander Wood, minister of Rosemarkie, and Mr. James Smith, minister of Avoch, finding the fund in so thriving a state, from their own attention to it, as well as the fidelity and diligence of their predecessors, began to think in what manner they might apply it to the most useful purpose. With a view to this, it occurred to them, that it could not be employed better than in the establishment of an academy at Fortrose. To this they were invited much by the healthy situation of the place, free from temptations to vice, and abounding with many fine walks and places of exercise for the students. They saw likewise, that this could be effected, so as fully to answer the intention of the pious donor, and to be productive of the best effects to the community. This institution has been accordingly formed. With the aid of a liberal subscription from the gentlemen of this county, and many others, (to the amount of above 600*l.* Sterling), the administrators purchased a new house and garden, in a very agreeable part of the town, commanding a most pleasant prospect; and have built another house in the same square, with excellent rooms for teaching, and other accommodations. One of these houses is destined for the rector, and the other for the teacher

teacher of mathematics; and both are very fit for lodging boarders.

In this business, the administrators are happy in having the assistance and support of several very respectable gentlemen of the county of Ross, who are named *Visitors* of the Academy, to observe that the regulations be properly attended to; and each of these has the privilege of sending to it any young man they please, to be educated without paying fees to the masters. The institution is yet in its infancy; but, from a variety of circumstances, there is little doubt of its success. A finer or healthier situation for such a seminary, is not to be found in Scotland; and, as there is now a very frequent intercourse by trading vessels, this affords a cheap and easy conveyance to Fortrose from London, Leith, and other principal sea ports; and students who attend here, among many other advantages in point of health, may have the benefit of excellent sea bathing.

The present visitors are, Sir Hector Munro of Novar, K. B.; Francis Humberston M'Kenzie of Seaforth; Sir Hugh Munro of Fowlis, Bart.; Sir Charles Ross of Balnagown, Bart.; Sir Hector M'Kenzie of Gairloch, Bart.; Donald M'Leod, Esq. of Geanies, sherriff-depute of Ross and Cromarty; Charles M'Kenzie, Esq. of Kilcoy; Kenneth Murchison, Esq. of Taradale; David Urquhart, Esq. of Braelangwell; and Robert Bruce Æneas M'Leod, Esq. of Cadboll. To these, other gentlemen will be added from time to time, who prove benefactors to the academy.

The administrators will require about 300l. more, to complete their plan, in finishing the buildings, purchasing mathematical instruments, and making up a decent library, which they hope yet to be supplied with by the liberality of the public. They find that this business occupies much of their time, and has been attended with no small personal trouble;

but this they will not regret, if it turn out, as they expect, for the general utility. The rector teaches the Greek, Latin, English and French languages ; the second master, arithmetic, book-keeping, geography, all the branches of mathematics, navigation, perspective drawing, &c.; and a third master is employed for initiating children in the elements of the Latin and English languages, writing and arithmetic.

Language.—It is somewhat remarkable, that in this, as well as the neighbouring parishes of Cromarty and Avoch, the ministers preach only in English, which is the common language of the people ; and it has been remarked by travellers, that even the lower sort of them pronounce it with ease and propriety. In this parish, no Gaelic is to be found, but among a few servants who come from the Highlands ; and they soon acquire the English by their residence here. From this, it should seem, that these parishes were not originally peopled with natives of these northern regions, but by persons who came by sea to settle here, invited by the pleasantness and fertility of the country. Among these, there has probably been a mixture of Danes.

Eminent Men.—Sir GEORGE M'KENZIE of Rosehaugh, that eminent statesman and able lawyer, passed a part of his time at Fortrose, and had a particular attachment to it, on account of its delightful walks and prospects. Dr. GEORGE M'KENZIE, too, the laborious compiler of “ the Lives of the most eminent Writers of the Scotch Nation,” resided here, in an old castle belonging to the Earl of Seaforth, and lies interred in the tomb of that family in the cathedral. And Dr. JAMES M'KENZIE, who writes “ the Art of preserving Health,” is said to have been for some time employed in teaching the grammar school of the burgh.

Disadvantages.

Disadvantages.—It is to be regretted, that the state of improvement, in this and the neighbouring parishes, is still so far behind, though most of the heritors have set a good example to their tenants. This proceeds from different causes. The principal one is the want of leases, sufficiently long to encourage the people to improve their farms. What inducement can a farmer have, to be at any extraordinary pains in improving his possession, by inclosing, raising turnips, sown grass, &c. when, at the expiration of a short tack, he must either pay an additional rent, or be deprived of all the fruits of his toil and industry? Another serious grievance, to the farmer, is the scarcity of servants, and the increase of their fees. The young fellows, for the most part, either go into the army, or travel to the south, where they meet with better living, and higher wages. It is certain, however, that every man has naturally a strong attachment to his native place, which makes him very unwilling to abandon it. Surely, then, it must be the interest of all concerned, to induce the people to remain at home, by every reasonable encouragement. This will always be found the most effectual method.

Circumstances attending the Scarcity in 1782-3.—In this country, the crops in a great measure failed in 1782 and 1783, which were remarkably hard for the farmers. Yet none here, at that time, were supposed to have died of real famine. The white pease and other grain from England, on the event of the peace, afforded a most seasonable supply to many poor families. One thing remarkable was, that in these years, severe as they were, fewer were sick among the parishioners, than have been observed before or since; which may in a great measure be attributed, to their being unable to spend their money in drinking spiritous liquors, and thus being obliged to live soberly. Another good effect proceeded also from this temporary

porary scarcity;—that various kinds of grain having been then imported, from England and other countries, they were sown in various soils, and on different farms; and according to the goodness of the produce, they were preserved and continued in the country. The early oats were particularly distinguished, which, upon late farms, are found to be of the greatest benefit. This has rendered those farms far more valuable than they were formerly.

Farming Society.—It gives pleasure to the writer of this, to observe, that within these few months, a society has been formed, under the name of the Rosshire Farming Society, of which he and some other clergymen are members, that promises to be of service to the county. It consists already of above 50 members, who have contributed a sum of money for the public benefit; and as it is proposed to branch it out into several committees, it will probably prove more extensively useful. In a little time, it may excite a spirit of emulation among the practical farmers, who will thus have an opportunity of communicating to one another their observations and experiments, which may be the means of introducing valuable improvements. Now that the duty is taken off the coals imported to the north, this will tend much to forward the views of the society, and facilitate the operations of the farmers.

Proposed Improvements —The parish of Rosemarkie is exceedingly well situated, for a manufacture of coarse linens or Osnaburghs, which might be carried on here to great advantage. To this branch the inhabitants are already much accustomed. The price of spinning is cheap; on which account flax and tow are brought here from Aberdeen, to be given out to spin, and the yarn returned by the merchants to their

their correspondents, being allowed a certain rate for commission. A good deal of flax is raised in the parish, which would no doubt be increased, but for want of a lint mill to dress it. It would be of considerable service to the people, to have a proper one erected, by encouragement from the trustees for improvements and manufactures, or by any of the proprietors.

Ale-Houses.—There is every reason to complain of the number of obscure tippling houses, in this as well as the adjacent parishes. These have the most baneful effects in injuring the health, wasting the substance, and debauching the morals of the people. Many, by haunting them too often, bring ruin on themselves and their families. It is much to be wished, that some effectual course were devised and put in execution to crush them.

Character.—The minister, however, has the satisfaction to say, that the inhabitants of the parish, in general, especially those of the better sort, are sober and industrious, moderate in their principles, and decent in their conduct; and free from those contracted notions and religious prejudices, which are still so prevalent in more northern parishes, and some other parts of Scotland.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXVII.

PARISH OF DENINO.

(County and Synod of Fife—Presbytery of St. Andrews.)

By Mr. WILLIAM WEST, Session Clerk and Schoolmaster.

Origin of the Name.

SOME persons, little less fanciful, perhaps, than intelligent, think that Denino derives its origin from the Gaelic word *Dunynach*, whose first constituent signifies *a hill*, and the two last *young women*. This feminine original seems, in their judgments, to be deducible from the apparent similitude of the Gaelic word to the name *Denino*. They infer, therefore, that *Denino* and the *Hill of Virgins* are terms perfectly equivalent. But times, and manners too, are doubtless much changed since the primary imposition of this so very pure and endearing title of our parish. Unfortunately, there is not the least circumstance, either in tradition or record, tending to establish the authenticity of this derivation. Indeed no circumstance appears so decisive of the matter as the local situation of Denino. The simple consideration of its standing in the immediate vicinity of a large and deep *den*, where, in right opposition to it,

it, two huge rocks seem to threaten an embrace over the perennial stream below, appears to have naturally suggested the name, *Denino*; or, in other words, the *Village on the Den*. And, when it is further known, that, unless in cases of inaccuracy, or of inadvertency, the ancient and modern orthographies of *Denino* are uniformly the same, the latter opinion, with regard to its original, must appear the more credible. The first syllable of the word being attended with no difficulty, by only admitting a common transposition, as to the two remaining ones, *Denino* and the *Village ON THE DEN*, will appear plainly synonymous.

Situation and Extent.—The parish lies among the eastern districts of the county of Fife, on the road between St. Andrews and Anstruther. The extent of *Denino* is uncommonly circumscribed, being scarcely 3 miles in length, and little more than half as much in breadth.

Figure, Surface, Rivulets and Fish.—The form of the parish is pretty regular; distinguished by no interfections from other parishes; to a good degree parallelogramical; with a large extent of its centre surrounded by circularly rising ground, which, being generally but barren, produces a singular concavity of very considerable fertility. It is beautifully interspersed with a variety of small rivers, abounding with trout of various species and of moderate size, but of superior flavour. The wild and protuberant banks of these rivulets, if suitably decorated with those diversities of plantation, with which, to the honour, and, eventually, to the emolument of their proprietors, they now begin to be occupied, must present scenes highly picturesque and gratifying.

Soil, &c.——This parish, though surrounded on every hand, almost, by extensive moor, destitute nearly of what might, at a very trifling expence, compared with future returns, contribute to general gratification and indulgence, in addition to the more intimate advantage and pleasure of individuals, is far from being barren. Though, from the smallness of the extent, no perceptible variation of air, or of climate, can be naturally expected; yet this is not the case respecting its soil, which is considerably diversified. Some of the ground consists of a black and light, but tolerably fertile loam, resting upon a gravelly bottom; while a large proportion of it displays a soil of a deep and stiff clay, with a bed of white and light sand. The most just idea of it, however, will be had from the information, that the soil, in general, is, in a great measure, wet and spongy; in most of the farms of the parish, frequently broken by large swamps and fens; and, though pretty well adapted for producing corn, is principally remarkable for crops of artificial grass and natural pasturage. Some of the proprietors, therefore, availing themselves of this obvious property of their estates in this district, have, with much success, converted them into those species of farms, for which their lands are thus so very well calculated.

Climate and Diseases.——Denino, sheltered from no quarter by any considerable planting or eminences, except by some rising ground towards the S. W., is often exposed to great winds from the sea, which, blowing with great force and sharpness, concur with the natural coldness of the soil, in rendering the frequent humidity and bleakness of the climate, the more sensibly felt. The air and climate are, however, of such a nature and temperature, as to occasion but few interruptions in the health and native gaiety of the people, the rheumatism and hysteric complaints being the chief disorders which

which occur. The inhabitants, though commonly healthy, and many of them long-lived, furnish no instances of remarkable longevity.

Minerals and Mineral Waters.—Coal seems, from the vast number of old pits in various places of the parish, to have, some time ago, been a very plentiful article here. There is still, it is said, plenty of it in several estates of this district; but it is uncertain when any of its proprietors will open these mines, or rather, whether their future gains would compensate the expenditure necessary for that purpose. Free-stone is also found in much abundance; but, though of an easy access, and of a tolerable good quality, it is seldom called for beyond the limits of the parish. The erection and reparation of enclosures, particularly on Sir William Erskine's estate of Denino, and the building of his tenants substantial premises, are the chief uses to which it has hitherto been, and is still occasionally applied. There is an uncommon variety of places in the parish, where ochre is found, particularly at a number of chalybeate springs. Between 30 and 40 years ago, these were much resorted to, for relief in disorders, chiefly scorbutic; but of late they have lost much of their former celebrity, though, to all appearance, very undeservedly.

Curiosities.—Towards the S. W. end of the parish of Denino, there is a most remarkable fall of water, of probably near 20 feet, from the shelve of the rock to the common surface of the very deep pond, into which, among a vast number of the finny race, (and which, according to the conjectures of the inhabitants, forms the boundary of their journeying upwards,) it pours almost perpendicularly. This fall, from some ludicrous, but perhaps natural, analogies, has, for time im-

Y y 2 memorial,

memorial, been constantly known by a very mark'd appellation. To the pond below there is no access, but up either side of the headlong current, overhung by rocks, some of them imminent and dreadful; while the immediate entrance to the pond is narrowed, by the seemingly artificial and mutual projection of two rocks, erected in the form of posts, destined for doors and hinges! The only artificial curiosity, is a subterraneous canal, of nearly 30 yards in length, of between 4 and 5 feet of an average breadth and height, and dug from the one end to the other, under a solid and continued rock of freestone, about 20 yards from the surface of a large piece of arable ground, actually peninsular. This very ingenious conduit, which forms the peculiar haunt of a few otters, was, about 60 years ago, effectuated by one of the then residing heritors, with an intention of conducting, through below the foundations of this isthmus, an increase of water to his mill, in its remote vicinity. The expence, attending the atchievement of such an astonishing piece of work, was no less than *three pounds Sterling*, and a *boll of meal*! and for the damage occasioned by the *intake*, as it is ironically called, there is still an yearly allowance of 2s. and 3 firlots of oats, made by the tenant of the above mill, to a tenant of another, through whose farm the water runs, before its disappearance in the mouth of its invifible receiver. There are two or three echoes to be met with in the parish, which merit no description.

Population.—The parish records of Denino extend back only to a little before the middle of last century; and it is something curious to observe, that the state of population was then very little above what it is at present. From 1771 till towards 1778, the population of the district of Denino appears gradually to have decreased, till it assumed its present seemingly

ingly settled state *. The total amount of souls, with various other circumstances relating to the state of the parish, according to a very recent and exact calculation, are as under :

STATISTICAL TABLE of the Parish of DENINO.

Length in English miles, — — — 3	Aver. ditto, from 1742 to 1752, 23
Breadth, not quite — — — 2	— ditto, from 1761 to 1771, 16
Population in 1755, — — — 598	— marriages, from do. to do. 3
— anno 1793, — — — 383	— deaths, — — — † 7
	— births from 1780 to 1790, 10
Decrease, — — — 215	— marriages, from do. to do. † 2
Aver. births, from 1643 to 1653, 8	— deaths, from do. to do. — 6

Inhabitants

* For some time preceding the middle of the present century, the principal part, if not the whole, of the parish husbandry was performed by cottagers; who enjoyed, as a material perquisite of their services, a small portion of land.— The parish also abounded with *pendiclers*, or inferior tenants. These, therefore and the cottagers, together with a considerable number of families employed in the coal mines, but most of all, the division of farms, and employing of hired servants in their cultivation, contributed much to the multiplication of the inhabitants; and hence it is easy to perceive the causes of so remarkable a depopulation; which is a natural consequence of the union of farms. More than 30 inhabited houses existed in the parish, about half a century ago, of which scarcely a single vestige now remains. It may be remarked farther, that the conversion of a very large extent of the district into grass farms, has operated very materially to the decrease of the people, by employing a much smaller number of servants of either sex.

† This is the average, after making a proportional deduction, for the many burials from other parishes, that take place here, on account, it is said, of the superiority of our burial-ground. In the above averages, the baptisms, marriages, and burials of the inhabitants of Kings Muir are included; it being found impossible, from the connection they necessarily had with Denino, to make any exact discrimination from the records.

‡ The number of births, marriages, and deaths, for 10 years immediately preceding 1790, are as follows :

4

Years

Inhabitants in Denino, -	230	Number of widows, -	6
----- Kings Muir, -	153	----- members of the Estab-	
Number of males in Denino, -	107	blished Church, -	151
----- females, -	123	----- Burgher Seceders, -	11
----- persons under 10		----- Relief ditto, -	3
years of age -	65	----- persons born out of	
----- between 10 and 20, -	57	the parish, -	144
----- 20 and 50, -	73	----- proprietors, -	3
----- 50 and 70, -	31	----- feuers, -	4
----- 70 and 100, -	4	----- clergymen, -	1
----- houses inhabited, a-		----- schoolmasters, -	1
bout -	38	----- farmers, at 200l. per	
Aver. of persons in each, nearly	6	annum, -	1
Number of houses uninhabited, -	6	----- do. at 50l. and up-	
----- new houses lately		wards, -	6
built, -	1	----- do. between 20l. and	
----- married persons, -	88	50l., -	5
----- children, at an aver-		----- shopkeepers, -	2
age, from each mar-		----- innkeepers, -	1
riage, -	4	----- smiths, -	1
----- married women a-		----- carpenters, -	2
bove 45, -	4		

Number

Year.	BIRTHS.	MARRIAGES	DEATHS.
1780	11	3	7
1781	10	4	4
1782	18	2	7
1783	9	2	7
1784	12	1	11
1785	8	0	3
1786	10	3	5
1787	10	1	6
1788	14	1	2
1789	4	1	5
Total within 10 years, -	106	18	57
Average, nearly, -	11	2	6

Number of weavers,	-	4	Number of young persons taught	
———— tailors*,	-	3	English, writing, &c.	40
———— millers,	-	4	———— acres, in English mea-	
———— male servants,	-	24	sure,	2280
———— female ditto,	-	11	———— carts,	24
———— flax-dressers,	-	1	———— ploughs,	20
———— apprentices,	-	2	Valued rent, in Scotch	
———— day-labourers,	-	2	money,	2334l. 6s. 8d.
———— poor,	-	3	Real rent, anno 1793,	
Capital of their funds,	-	120l.	in Sterling,	1157l. 0s. 0d.
Annual income,	-	12l.		

Proprietors, Rents, and Improvements.—None of the proprietors reside in the parish. A few remains of the very ancient and venerable seats of their progenitors lie in it, in the wildest state of ravage and of Gothic desolation; and which, whether restored according to their former constitution, or after a modern and more refined plan, must, at any rate, afford but indifferent accommodation for their more illustrious successors. There is a small farm in this parish, of 17 acres, belonging to the kirk-session of Ely, a considerable village about 5 miles S. of this; and there are 4 feuers in it, whose feu-duty, to Miss Scott of Scotstarvet, for about 12 acres of pretty good ground, is 5l. 2s. 4½d. Within less than 30 years, the landed property of the district of Denino has undergone frequent changes, and has always been attended with considerable augmentations in the purchase. The whole rental of a considerable estate in it, little more than 20 years ago, was only 196l. per annum, though now it draws no less than 500l.

* It is somewhat remarkable, that there neither are, nor have been, for an unknown time past, any *shoemakers* in the parish of Denino, notwithstanding of the incessant demand for their services in every other place. To remedy as much as possible, however, this inconvenience, the parishioners are far from being despicable *menders* of shoes. The circumstance of being, at the nearest, 3 miles distant from any *makers*, has taught them this article of ingenuity.

500l. a year. The average price of the whole parish is nearly 10s. 6d. an acre; good farms letting at about 15s. per acre, at an average. The very best may be about 2l.; the second about 12s.; while the inferior kind is not worth more than 5s. an acre. Last year, a considerable estate here, though almost wholly uninclosed at the time, was sold for 5,000 guineas, which was no less than 35 years purchase. What has chiefly contributed, to raise the price of land to such a degree, is the now general practice of inclosing, which only commenced in this district about 20 years ago, but ever since has made the most rapid advances. Most of the inclosures of the parish consist of dry stone dikes, topped with a stony layer, of stones placed upon their edges, and the whole cast with lime. Inclosures, consisting of ditch and hedge, likewise go fast forward, and are paving the way for an universal emulation on those grounds, which best agree with such kinds of inclosures.—The valued and real rents of the whole district are stated in the table. In calculating the latter, the feus are not included.

Agriculture.—There is only a small proportion of the parish under grain; but that small part is well cultivated. During the short space of 20 years past, the state of our cultivation has undergone very considerable improvement; insomuch, that the ground, which formerly was let for about 2s. 6d. an acre, on an average, is now rented at near 14s. an acre; and, even at this rate, it is thought sufficiently cheap. There is perhaps something in the management of the grass farms in the parish worthy of remark: Of such small portions of them, as are solely occupied by oats and barley, the species of grain for which their soil is naturally adapted, the tenants are prohibited from taking any more than two crops running; and of these farms also, which are almost all arable, about a sixth part

part is annually under the above species of crops; the one half, or near it, is to be yearly sown down with clover and rye-grass. This singular rotation must be uniformly and punctually observed. There being scarcely any cattle used in husbandry here, and only 5 cottagers employed in it, who have portions of land for part of their labour, the hired servant cultivates his fields with 2 middle sized horses yoked in a plough, which is almost uniformly of the English construction.

ANNUAL PRODUCE*.

Crops.	Num. of Acres under each.	Produce per Acre. Bolls.	Price per Boll.			Total Produce. Bolls.	Total Value.		
			l.	s.	d.		l.	s.	d.
Oats,	3-9	5	0	12	0	1945	1167	0	0
Barley,	113	6	0	14	6	678	491	11	0
Pease,	33	3	0	12	6	99	61	17	6
Wheat,	28	7	1	1	0	196	205	16	0
Potatoes,	9	27	0	5	0	243	60	15	0
Flax,	12	St. 15	0	10	0	St. 180	90	0	0
Turnips,	18	-	3	15	0	-	65	10	0
Sown Grass,	109	200	0	0	5	21,800	454	3	4
Hay,									
			per St.						
	711						2596	12	10
Straw, 2s. per boll of corn,	}	-	-	-	-	B. 2918	291	16	0
Pasture, at 3l. per horse,									
2l. per cow,	}	-	-	-	-	{ £ 273 £ 528	801	0	0
							3689	8	10

* The above sketch of the annual produce of the parish may be of service, in helping to form a conception of similar articles in those districts, from which specimens of the kind may have been given in.

VALUE OF STOCK.

Number of draught horses,	-	62,	valued at	L. 15 each, is	L. 930
— saddle ditto,	-	3,	—	15 —	45
— young ditto,	-	26,	—	9 —	234
— best cattle,	-	92,	—	6 —	552
— inferior ditto	-	172,	—	4 —	688
— swine,	-	18,	—	1 10s.—	27
Total value of stock,					- - - L. 2476

Pasturage, Sheep, &c.—From a survey of the above tables, it appears, that there are only about 711 acres of the parish of Denino under real crops. There are fully 180 acres of perfect moor in it, of no use, unless perhaps for planting, of which it is hitherto destitute. The parish is, however, adorned with nearly 60 acres of planting, consisting, in a great degree, of stripes, as they are called, and judiciously enough designed for cherishing the cold grounds, where they flourish in beautiful and plentiful variety. There are, in the last place, generally about 40 acres of fallow in the parish; so that, if from 2280 acres, which the whole district of Denino contains, we deduct 991, the number under corn, fallow, &c. &c. there will appear a balance of 1289 acres of natural and artificial pasturage; upon the last division of which, great numbers of excellent cattle are fed, during the summer, by the graziers, and either occasionally disposed of, to the itinerant merchant, or driven to the country markets. The number of sheep in the parish does not exceed 20; they are kept and fed by some of the farmers, for their own use only, during the summer.

Prices of Labour and Provisions.—From a view of the table of the annual produce, it appears, that the parish must do considerably more than maintain its inhabitants. The average prices of the several species of grain, therein specified,

are stated as regulated by the county fiars; or rather, by the general state of the market.—The yearly wages of a labouring man-servant, are 7l.; and those of a woman, 3l. The day-labourer has 1s. a day, without meat; 2s. 2d. per acre, for hay cutting; and for making ditto, or for turnip hoeing, either by males or females, 6d., and sometimes 7d. per day. The price of a goose here is commonly 3s.; a hen, 1s.; and eggs, 3½d. a dozen; butter sells at 8d., and cheese from 3d. to 6d. per pound; pigeons, 3d. a pair; chickens at 4d. each; rabbits, (animals very common in the parish of Denino), at 6d. a pair, without the skin; and butcher meat, universally, at 4d. per pound.

Ecclesiastical State.—The manse, almost thrown down from the foundation, and rebuilt, on a durable construction, about the year 1741, is a tolerably decent house, 2 stories high, and contains 6 moderately good rooms, with a kitchen, and some other apartments. Since its last erection, it has undergone very many repairs. The glebe contains little more than 4½ acres of English measure, worth about 1l. 10s. per acre, if duly cultivated. The stipend consists of 24l. in money, with 5 chalders, or 80 bolls of victual; the one half meal, and the other bear. The whole annual income, exclusive of the manse, and a tolerably good garden, is about 90l. Sterling. The church is one of the smallest of country churches, perhaps, with an aisle, and a small porch by one of its front doors. It is uncertain when it was built; but *some* persons are perfectly sure of its having been very lately and very materially repaired. Mr. JAMES BROWN, ordained 13th May 1790, is the present minister of Denino.

School.—The school-house is a very short, low, thatched house, and, though not very old, a very crazy edifice. The

school, very fortunately for the health of the teacher, as well as of those who are taught, is large, and capable of containing a few more scholars, besides the parochial ones; a great number of whom commonly attend it. Besides a very good garden, of 8 by 12 paces, there is a salary of 100 merks (5l. 11s. 0½d. Sterling), and the session-clerk's fees, which amount to 2l. 15s. 8d.; with an occasional gratuity of 5s. Sterling, at the dispensation of the Lord's Supper, for extraordinary singing. The fees for teaching are, for English, 1s. 3d.; for reading and writing, 1s. 6d.; for arithmetic, 2s.; and for Latin, 2s. 6d. Other branches of education are seldom desired; and even the last not very frequently. Most of the people have a laudable ambition to have their children educated; and the payment of the quarter fees is scarcely ever grudged, though often paid with a good degree of tardiness, arising from the actual penury of some of the parents. The dues on a proclamation of marriage, are 2s. 6d. when regular, one third whereof goes to the beadle; and, when irregular, or performed in shorter time than the church standards dictate, an additional gratuity is commonly given by the employers. The dues on each baptism are 1s., of which the beadle gets 3½d.; and those on certificates are 6d. each, of which the beadle has no share. The session-clerk has also 4d. each for registering burials. His annual income, altogether, does not exceed 22l., at an average, one year with another. Such, however, is the *liberal* provision allotted for the far greater part of those members of society, from whose services must ever, fundamentally, proceed whatever is elegant and respectable in the lives and manners of their fellow citizens.

Poor.—The large contributions formerly made for the poor here, and the small disbursements, have raised the present capital

pital of their funds to 120l.; which is lodged partly in the hands of a landed proprietor, partly in some of the Banks, and draws interest, commonly at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. This, with the weekly collections at church, which are about 2s. each Sabbath, at an average, and the dues arising from the two palls, (the one of which produces 5s. and the other 1s. 6d. from the funerals at which they are used), may raise the annual income of the poor to about 12l. Each of the poor has nearly $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. every week; but their pensions are proportioned, notwithstanding, to their occasional necessities. What of their yearly income remains thus unexhausted, is expended in the payment of salaries; such as, the session-clerk's, the beadle's, the presbytery clerk's, &c. &c.; with various repairs about the church, the school, and school-house; and even about the public bridges of the parish. These repairs, however, devolve upon the kirk-session, who defray these expences only in such cases as they judge unworthy of an application to the heritors of the parish. But, at any rate, those who have their salaries as above, paid from the poor's funds, are perhaps equally necessitous with those for whom they were originally destined. Upwards of 15l. was expended lately in the purchase of a new pall, without touching the poor's capital.

Antiquities, &c.—It is affirmed, that there are some relics of antiquity in the parish, but they happen to exist more in the imaginations of the credulous antiquary, aided by superstitious report, than otherwise. There are only two even of these: the one is a Druidical temple, which is said to have stood in the vicinity of a place called *Balkethly*; from which, (in the opinion that *Baal*, the Sidonian deity, and the God of *Jezebel*, was worshippd there), it is asserted to have derived its name. Of this Druidical temple not the most smallest
vestige

vestige can now be seen.—The other supposed antiquity is a Roman camp; which is said to give name to a place near it, called *Chestus*. There are, it is true, some very visible marks of this ancient entrenchment; but instead of being what it is vulgarly believed to be, it appears, on a proper view of circumstances, to be in reality no more than a homely drain from a number of old coal-pits! The seeming conformity of *Chestus* to certain English names, such as, *Chester*, *Colchester*, &c. lays a foundation for the ingenious conjectures of several learned antiquaries. Many of the names of places, however, in the parish of Denino, are evidently of Celtic derivation; such as, *Bely*, *Kinaldy*, *Stravithy*, &c. Most of them, however, are obviously of English origin, and significant of their local situations; as, *Bonnyfield*, *Primrose*, *Four-stone-fold*, and the like.

Disadvantages.—The leading subject of complaint, with the inferior classes of our parishioners, is the scarcity of coals, (the only article of the parish fuel), even in the *land of coal*. By the selfishness of individuals, the people here seem to be, in a great measure, excluded from those inestimable and necessary favours, so liberally poured around them, by the benignity and wisdom of the Almighty. For, notwithstanding the great quantity of coals formerly raised in our immediate neighbourhood, the spirit of monopoly has for many years past deprived us of this bounty of Providence; and it is hard to say how long the same spirit may continue to afflict the poor of this parish; the principal proprietor of the coal-mines here having entered into an agreement with the proprietor of an adjoining colliery, to keep his own coal-works shut till those of the other shall be completely exhausted; in return for which the other has bound himself, and his heirs, &c. to pay him an annuity of 20 l. a-year! Thus the poor of this parish,

parish, as well as the adjacent country, are deprived of a blessing evidently intended for them by Providence; and obliged to purchase fuel from a considerable distance, at a higher price, and of a worse quality. To this essential, and seemingly irremediable grievance, may be added, *mill thirlages*, which, however, are not so much felt in this as in other places.

KING'S MUIR.

Name, Privileges, &c. This is a very extensive tract of ground, containing more than 1000 acres. It is called *King's Muir*, on account of its being, some time after the restoration of Charles II. conferred by that Prince upon one Col. Borthwick, who had attended him in his adventures and exile, previously to his attainment of the throne, as a reward for his attachment and services. This is the account given of its origin by Mr. Hanno, the present proprietor. Most of the ground of this ancient royal donation is, as its name insinuates, extremely wild in appearance; though, upon the whole, much less unfertile than might be expected. The proprietor, however, is of opinion, that, taking all of it together, it is not worth more than 1s. 6d. an acre; while others rate it much higher. It is wholly exempt from assessment; and the circumstance of its not yielding either minister's stipend or schoolmaster's salary, seems, in the conjectures of many, to have classed it with no parish whatever. Its inhabitants have, nevertheless, either from their vicinity to our church, or the popularity of its ministers, always considered themselves as parishioners of Denino, in the most decided preference to Crail; in whose parish they are asserted, by a few, to be legally included. As the present laird of King's Muir has not his charter by him, we

we shall leave the determination of this controversy, to those who may think it worth the investigation. It may not be amiss to observe, however, that although the people of King's Muir have, for time immemorial, connected themselves with the district of Denino, *quoad sacra*; yet there is a little farm, situated between this parish and it, which pays stipend to the minister of Crail, as he himself says, though perfectly unconnected with King's Muir, and belonging to a different proprietor. The most fertile parts of King's Muir are parcelled out into small farms, let by the lump, to persons, most of whom are either tradesmen, or work, during a great part of the year, by day-labour. The population of it is as under:

POPULATION TABLE OF KING'S MUIR.

Males, above 10 years of age,	59	Families,	-	-	25
Females, - - -	75	Widows, - - -	-	-	7
Children, under 10, -	19—153	Widower, - - -	-	-	1
Between 10 and 20, -	42	Natives, either of King's Muir,			
———20 and 50, - -	57	or Denino, - - -	-	-	78
———50 and 70, - -	30	Burgher Seceders, - - -	-	-	4
———70 and 100, - -	5—153				

Proprietor, Rent, Minerals, &c.—The estate of King's Muir is now entailed on the name of *Hanno*, the surname of its present laird, whose whole yearly rental amounts to 100l. There is nothing remarkable in the King's Muir, besides its containing the coal-mine above mentioned, and one of the two mines that convey the water from the links, which was dug nearly 50 years ago, being more than 300 fathoms in length; in most places 9 ditto from the surface of the earth; originally 18 inches wide, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high. The coal here was hitherto wrought by a wind-mill, no vestige of which remains; but will in future be wrought by a different element,

ment, and by different machinery. The estate of King's Muir is wholly devoid of planting, and no less destitute of enclosures, or any kind of fence. This large piece of ground, apparently an *outcast* from all parishes, as its inhabitants are sometimes humourously told, by those of the adjacent districts, would, with that extensive part of *this* parish, which went to complete the vicarage of Cameron, but which ought still to pay some proportion to Denino, form a parish of a very respectable extent.

General Character.—Of the inhabitants of this parish it may justly be asserted, that industry and hospitality, sincerity and an obliging behaviour, are their general characteristics. They are also noted for moderation and sobriety, generosity and candour. From these virtues there may be, however, as is but too natural, not a few deviations. The bulk of the people, though poor, are contented and resigned. The minority, whose circumstances are more affluent, appear to indulge as much in the luxuries of the table, and of dress, as the superiority of their fortunes can well countenance. The inferior classes seem to be uncommonly fond of personal decoration; and rather than (as they imagine) disgrace the back, they will often starve its supporter. This remark is, perhaps, not more applicable to the one sex than to the other; or to this district more than to other parishes. Spiritous liquors produce, at present, fewer unpleasant scenes than some time ago. Notwithstanding the general penury of the district, the inhabitants are proof against the sordid invasions of avarice. As a specimen, both of the morals and natural tempers of some of the individuals in the parish, let the following fact suffice: Two men in the parish of Denino have, for nearly 30 years, held a considerable farm and mill in conjunction; preserving every article, regarding their external

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property, in perfect community, their wives and private property only excepted. The people in general are humane; and, as far as means will allow, more than ordinarily charitable to the poor.

Language.—Respecting this article there is nothing at all striking, except that the vulgar dialect is remarkably exempted from the corruptions that abound on the coast, as well as from many of those Scotticisms, and uncouth phrases, so peculiar to many other places, whose inhabitants lay claim to a higher degree of refinement. This bit of *lingo-eminence* may have arisen from the vicinity of Denino, in common with many other adjacent districts, to *Alma Mater*! Agreeably to the general practice of the county, the inhabitants here display a singular hollowness in the accentuation of their words, with an unusual prolongation of the final tone of their sentences; all aided at least by the antique manner of enunciating some of the vowels and diphthongs.

NUM.

NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF FINTRY.

(County of Stirling—Presbytery of Dumbarton—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By the Rev. Mr. GAVIN GIBB, Minister of STRATHBLANE.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE name of this parish is of Gaelic origin, and signifies *Fair Land*. Contrasted with the bleak and precipitous rudeness of the adjacent moors and mountains, its grassy hills, its fertile and well watered valleys, entitle it to this appellation.—Fintry is situated in the midst of that range of hills, which reaches from Stirling to Dumbarton, and behind that particular district of them usually denominated *the Campsie Fells*. It lies 17 miles due N. from Glasgow, 12 miles W. by S. from Stirling, and 21 or 22 miles E. by N. from Dumbarton. It belongs to the commissariat of Glasgow. It extends from E. to W. 5 miles, and from N. to S. more than 4; though the only parts of it, which are inhabited, are a small valley on the banks of the Endrick, and another on the banks of the Carron; both of which rivers have their source in this parish.

General Appearance.—The general appearance of the country is hilly. The hills are small; they are clothed with refreshing

freshing verdure ; and their shapes are finely diversified. Covered with sheep, they suggest many pastoral images. The eastern part of the parish consists of three ranges of hills, with scarcely any intervening plain. Between the two southernmost of these ranges, the Carron bog or meadow commences ; the largest perhaps in Scotland. Beginning in Fintry, it runs E. between the parishes of Kilsyth and St. Ninian's to the extent of 4 miles ; is in some places 2 miles in breadth, and in no place less than 1 ; containing about 500 acres in one continued plain. It affords sustenance during the winter to the cattle of the surrounding farms. This remarkable meadow, besides its utility, adds great liveliness and beauty to the general face of the country. The scene it exhibits during the months of July and August, of 20 or 30 different parties of people employed in hay-making, is certainly very cheerful : And during winter, the greater part of it being overflowed by the Carron, which runs through the middle of it, and which is then industriously led over its whole extent, to fertilize it for the ensuing crop, it assumes the appearance of a large and beautiful lake. In both situations, it affords an agreeable relief from the bleakness of the country around it. Towards the west end of the parish, the hills are more rocky and rugged. The valley through which the rapid stream of the Endrick runs, widens gradually to the extent of a mile. Several groves, recently planted, beginning to lift their heads along the banks of the river ; the cultivated fields on its margin ; the hedges and hedge rows round the enclosures on the estate of Culcruch ; an extensive plantation behind the mansion-house of that name ; and some well-disposed clumps of trees on the sides of the opposite hills, gratify the traveller, not only with a view of beauty, but of well-directed industry. Above these, the summits of the mountains on both sides, broken, and presenting abrupt precipices, and sometimes covered
with

with clouds, add grandeur and dignity to the scene.—The prospect, however, is confined within narrow limits, excepting towards the west, where it is terminated by Benlomond, that rises with eminent dignity above the neighbouring Grampians. Thus fenced and sequestered, the little hills and valleys of Fintry suggest ideas of tranquil and undisturbed seclusion. Nor can any thing of the kind be more agreeable than when in summer, the sun setting by the side of Benlomond, throws a blaze of parting radiance on the romantic banks of the upper Endrick.

Soil.—The soil in those parts of the parish which are fit for agriculture, is light, quick, and fertile; agrees better with dung for manure than lime; and, when enriched with the former, produces excellent crops. Some recent experiments however have shewn, that when the ground is pastured for two years, then limed and allowed to rest another year, it will thereafter yield better crops, than by any mode of husbandry hitherto practised.

Cultivation and Produce.—In agriculture, however, the inhabitants have made but few improvements. They follow servilely the ancient mode of *pasturing, and of sowing oats*, for two or three years alternately on their out-field, and of uniformly sowing as much land with bear as the winter's dung will cover; and from which they afterwards take two successive crops of oats. However a few of the farmers are now beginning to get the better of these prejudices, and find their account in altering the mode of cropping. In making this change they have been instructed and prompted by Mr. SPIERS of Culcruich, who, since his residence on his estate, has set the example of clearing the ground with turnips, and has introduced the sowing of grass and clover seeds for hay. The beneficial

ficial effect of this method, has encouraged some of his own tenants to follow his example; and there is no doubt but the practice will become general in all those farms upon which the enclosures are fencible against sheep. The method alluded to consists, as was mentioned, in cleaning the ground with turnips and potatoes; in sowing next year bear with grafs seeds; in raising hay for two years; in pasturing one or two; in sowing oats for two years; and then in returning to the turnips. This routine answers very well, and, with the single improvement of taking only one crop of each kind, and pasturing two years, is best adapted for this soil, which, being light, is soon impoverished by a continuation of crops, and if not regularly cleaned by pasturing and crops of turnips, is apt to be over-run with the *creeping wheat-grafs*, known by the vulgar name of *felt*, or *pirl-grafs*. There is no soil better adapted for raising potatoes, of which the inhabitants plant considerable quantities; after which they commonly sow flax-seed, which succeeds very well, yielding from three to four stones from each peck sown.

Cattle.—But the attention of the inhabitants is, with very few exceptions, confined to grazing*, which is by far the most

* Under this article it is but justice to mention the name of DAVID DUN, a man whose exertions, in improving the mode of grazing, are truly laudable, and to whose example its present advanced state, through a considerable part of the west of Scotland, is in a great measure owing. He has the merit of first improving the breed of black cattle and sheep, by raising them to a greater size, and feeding them more thoroughly, than was ever done before upon grafs alone. This he has accomplished, by judiciously selecting the most choice cattle, to stock his farms with, and by keeping his grafs lighter, i. e. by putting fewer cattle upon the same space of ground, than what had been used in former times.—As a specimen of his success in this branch, the writer states the following facts, which are well attested. At one time he sold a Highland stot, which was kill-

most beneficial mode of using the ground in this parish, where hill and vale equally afford most excellent pasture for black cattle and sheep. They use the plough therefore chiefly with a view to the sustenance of their cattle through winter, as fodder is the great object of labour. In some of the farms the rent is solely paid from the produce of milk-cows; indeed butter and cheese form the staple produce of the parish. Feeding of cattle is also generally practised. In the month of May, each farmer buys a number of Highland cows, proportioned to the extent of his farm, which he fattens during summer, and again sells off in the months of September and October. When markets are brisk, and sales ready, this is by much the most convenient and advantageous method of using the ground in this parish, as the excellence of the pasture during summer, ensures the fattening of the cattle purchased, and the difficulty of procuring fodder for winter prevents the rearing any more than are necessary, to keep up the stock of milk-cows. Sheep are also an object of attention. The breed is in general good, a consequence of the excellent pasture

ed in Glasgow, and weighed, according to the purchaser's confession, 52 stones beef, and 10 stones tallow: the price he received was 25 guineas. At another time he sold 25 Highland stots at 12l. each, the lightest of which weighed upwards of 30 stones. He sells annually about 60 tup-lambs of a year old, for which he never receives less than a guinea each; and his lambs for killing he commonly sells in May, at half-a-guinea each. He carries on his plan on a very extensive scale, renting farms in different parts of the country, from one to another of which, he removes his cattle at the proper seasons, according to the quality of the farm, and the state of the cattle. His stots he sells at 5 years old, but calves of his own rearing sometimes equal his best cattle, at three years old, and are accordingly sold at that age. When he dealt to the greatest extent he paid rents to the amount of 1800l. per annum; the largest proportion of which he paid to the Duke of Montrose. His annual stock at that time was 470 black cattle, and 2740 sheep, of which 200 were ewes, as a permanent stock, from which he has frequently sold in a year 300 lambs.

ture on which they graze, as well as of the care which is taken to improve the stock, by crossing the breed, and rearing none but the best *ewe-lambs*. Lambs are also frequently brought from the southern parts of Scotland, which improve greatly on this soil. The wool is of a very good quality. Lambs generally sell at 6l. per score; wool sells at from 5s. to 7s. per stone. The following table will shew the number of cows and sheep kept in this parish:

Milk Cows,	-	-	-	-	263
Fat ditto,	-	-	-	-	370
Sheep,	-	-	-	-	2470

Population.—The population of this parish, like that of most other grazing countries in Scotland, has decreased very much within these 40 years. Since the return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, it has decreased more than a third part. There are several farms in the parish, upon which from 14 to 20 families formerly lived, where only from 5 to 8 families now reside. This depopulation is evidently caused by throwing several small farms into one, which enables the possessor to pay a greater rent to the proprietor, and at the same time to live better in his own family, than when parcelled out in small portions. Nor is this counted disadvantageous to those who are ejected, as the great demand for hands by manufacturing companies, affords them a ready reception; where they and their children can earn more, and live better, than upon a small farm. But, notwithstanding present opinions, it still remains a doubt, whether this revolution in the state of a country, will in the end prove a national advantage. Whether a pallid and sickly race, brought up in the confined air of cotton mills, with few attachments, and little education, will compensate for the sturdy sons of our hills and mountains,

tains, or afford a set of as loyal and virtuous subjects, is a question which we leave posterity to determine.—The present state of the population is as under.

POPULATION TABLE of the Parish of FINTRY.

Population in 1755,	-	-	891	Between 50 and 70,	-	-	55
Ditto in 1793,	-	-	543	----- 70 and 100*,	-	-	17
			-----	Weavers, †	-	-	5
Decrease,	-	-	248	Tailors,	-	-	3
Of these there are,				Smiths,	-	-	2
Males,	-	-	273	Shoemaker,	-	-	1
Females,	-	-	270	Average of births for the last 15			
Under 10 years of age,	-	-	136	years,	-	-	16
Between 10 and 20,	-	-	110	Ditto of deaths,	-	-	8
----- 20 and 50,	-	-	225				

Manufactures and New Village.—This parish is on the eve of experiencing a great change, by the introduction of manufactures, on a very large scale. A cotton mill is just erected on the estate of Culcruich, 156 feet in length, and 40 feet wide; which, when finished, will employ 1000 hands. A handsome village, upon a rising ground along the side of the Endrick, is already feued off, and building for the reception of the work people. The houses, according to a regular plan, are to stand in one row, and to consist of two stories and garrets. Thus situated, the village will be well aired, dry and healthy; and very pleasant, having the gardens in front, *separated from the houses by the turnpike road*, dressed on a sloping bank down to the river.

VOL. XI.

3 B

Proprietors

* It is worthy to be recorded, that there died, a few months previous to taking up this list, one man above 80, and another 103 years old.

† Some of these have apprentices and journeymen; and they are supplied with work from manufacturing companies. Men servants wages are 4l. and 4l. 10s. in the half year; women servants from 1l. 10s. to 2l.

Proprietors and Rent.—The whole property of the parish is vested in the Duke of MONTROSE, and Mr. SPIERS of Culcruich; the former of whom is patron of the parish, and the latter is the only residing heritor. The present rent is between 1500l. and 1900l.; but it may be expected to rise considerably.

Church, &c.—The church was built before this century: Part of it appears to be of a very ancient date. The manse was built in 1732, and has undergone several repairs. The stipend consists of 44 bolls of meal, 5 bolls of bear, and 24l. 10s. Sterling in money; exclusive of the glebe, which contains 9 acres, 4 of which are arable.

Poor.—The poor of this parish are supported by the weekly collections, and the interest of a fund, which has accumulated to 200l. Sterling and upwards, chiefly by donations from the family of Montrose. The present number on the poor's roll is 7, and varies from that 10. They receive, individually, according to their necessities, from 1s. to 3s. weekly. Besides this stated distribution, attention is paid to clothing the most destitute, and supplying them with fuel. These supplies are adequate to their wants; insomuch, that there is not, nor has been for many years past, a single instance of a poor person, belonging to the parish, going out to beg. This attention to their own poor, however, does not by any means free the inhabitants from the burden and plague of mendicants from other places. Crowds flock thither, from the great towns and populous villages, for the space of 30 miles round, who frequently repay the charity they receive, by making nightly depredations upon their humane landlords.

Fuel.—The fuel which has been principally used hitherto in this parish, is peat; in cutting, drying, and carrying home which, the whole summer is spent, from the end of seed-time,

time, till the beginning of the hay harvest. This, were there no other obstacle, is a powerful bar to agricultural improvements, as the only time of the year, in which the farmers can carry lime, is spent in preparing and securing their fuel. It is to be hoped, however, that this obstacle will soon be removed. An attempt is just now making to find coal upon the estate of Culcruich, and appearances have hitherto been favourable. Whatever may be the ultimate issue of this search, great praise is due to Mr. Spiers for his indefatigable exertions, in promoting every measure that can contribute to the prosperity of the parish*.

Roads and Bridges — Till within these two years, the access to Fintry was extremely difficult on all sides, insomuch, that had it not been rendered easier, no improvement could have made its way thither. The difficulty was even so great as almost to forbid any attempt to remove it. A hill, almost perpendicular, over which horses could scarcely crawl with half a load, cut off the communication with Campsie and Glasgow, from which side coal could only be got; and deep moor and moss obstructed the approach on the N. and W. These obstacles, seemingly insurmountable, are now happily overcome,

3 B 2

* The MODE OF BORING, which he has adopted, is such as must ascertain, without a doubt, whether there be coal in the country or not, and may serve as a lesson to others, who may have occasion to make trial for coal in hilly countries. The top of the hill consists of a very thick bed of whin stone, below which there is a bed of free-stone equally thick. Beginning at the bottom of the free-stone, which is half a mile up the hill, with a 10 fathom bore, he takes the level of the bottom of this bore down the side of the hill, making allowances for the dip and run of the metals, where he bores again to the depth of 10 fathoms, and so on, continuing till he reaches the level of the river. In one of these bores there was found last week a small crop seam of coal, which it is to be hoped is the forerunner of one of greater consequence. If the attempt succeeds, it will be of the utmost importance, to a tract of country for 10 miles round, the greatest part of which lies at present 20 miles from coal.

overcome, by the public spirited exertions of Mr. SPIERS and Mr. DUNMORE. The gentleman last mentioned, has formed, as it were, a new creation on the water of Endrick, and given life and spirit to a country which, 4 years ago, seemed condemned to perpetual dullness; having, in that space, brought from different parts of the country, to the neighbouring parishes of Balfron and Killearn, no fewer than 1100 persons. Both these gentlemen, with much private expence, obtained an act of parliament for a new district of roads, in the western parts of Stirlingshire; and, with a promptitude of execution, equal to their zeal in moving the measure, have furnished this part of the country with as good roads as any part of Scotland. The *Craw Road*, a mile in length and upwards, which was formerly 1 foot of ascent in 7, and in some places 1 foot in 5, is now reduced to 1 foot in 20, in the steepest place. This line of road reaches from Glasgow through Fintry, and joins the military road between Stirling and Dumbarton, about 6 miles to the N. of this place. The county road to the W. is also now put into a state of repair; so that, from being the most difficult of access, Fintry is now easily accessible on all sides.—The bridges, on this line of road are numerous, and add very much to the ease of the communication; as the deep ravines formed by the mountain streams, which were formerly very difficult to pass, are all arched over, and filled up to the level of the adjacent banks. The bridge over the Endrick consists of 4 arches, 2 of which are 26 feet wide, and the other two 12 feet each. The bridge on the old line of road, about a mile farther up the river, consists of one beautiful arch of 47 feet wide, and another of 15 feet.

Rivers, Fish, &c.—The *Endrick* has its source in the hill of Fin-
on the northern side of the parish. It runs E. a little way,
takes a sudden turn to the S., forming the eastern boundary
of

of the parish for 2 miles; then turns due W., rushing over the *Loup of Fintry*, and inclosing part of the parish within 3 sides of a square. After receiving the river *Blanc*, and other plentiful streams, in its course, and forming 2 beautiful cascades at GARTNESS, the spot where the famous NAPIER of MERCHISTON invented his logarithms, it loses itself in Lochlomond, about 14 miles below Fintry. This river abounds with trout and par. The trout are reckoned to be of a superior quality, and may be taken in great numbers, even by an unskilful angler; upon which account it is very much resorted to, by persons fond of that amusement. Salmon, likewise, make their way in great numbers into the mouth of this river; some of which, when the water is high, come as far up as Fintry. The *Carron* rises in the W. end of the parish, on the S. of the Endrick, and runs E. in a straight direction, watering the Carron Bog in its passage; leaving which, it rushes over the *Auchinlily-Linn Spout*, a tremendous cataract, corresponding to an interesting description in the tragedy of Douglas,—

“Red came the river down,” &c. &c.

From this it continues its course eastward, through the Carse of Falkirk, and falls into the Forth, about 3 miles from that town. It abounds with small and large trout; some of which, taken in the pools in Carron Bay, measure 20 inches in length.

Natural Curiosities.—The only curiosity which is universally remarked in this parish, is the above mentioned *Loup of Fintry*; a cataract of 91 feet high, over which the Endrick pours its whole stream. In rainy weather, and more especially after a thunder shower, or a water spout, which frequently happen

happen in these parts, the *Loup of Fintry* may be mentioned along with what is most magnificent in this kind of object. —There is also in this parish a grand range, or colonnade, of basaltic pillars, which rise in a hill called *Dun*, or *Down*, at the end of the hill of Fintry. The range consists of 70 columns in front, which are of a gigantic stature, some of them separating in loose blocks, others apparently without joints from top to bottom. They stand perpendicular to the horizon, and rise to the height of 50 feet. They are some of them square, others pentagonal and hexagonal. A block, separated from one of the hexagonal columns, measured by an accurate survey as follows :

		Feet.	Inches.			Feet.	Inches.
1st side,	-	2	1	5th side,	-	1	2
2d do.	-	1	8	6th do.	-	0	10½
3d do.	-	1	5½	Its greatest diameter,	2	11	
4th do.	-	1	3¾	Its least ditto,	2	3	

On the E. side of the range, the columns stand separated one from another, by an interstice of 3 or 4 inches. This interstice lessens gradually towards the W. side, till nothing but a seam is discernible, and then all is blended in one solid mass of rock, which is very much honey-combed, and has the appearance of having been ignited. The mountain above mentioned, consists of very extensive beds of red ochre.

NUM.

NUMBER XXIX.

PARISH OF ST. MUNGO.

(County and Synod of Dumfries—Presbytery of Lochmaben.)

By the Rev. Mr. DAVID DICKSON, Minister.

Erection and Name.

IN *Crawfurd's* Peerage of Scotland, *Robert de Bruce*, the 2d lord of Annandale, is said to have granted to the Episcopal See of Glasgow, "*cum consensu Roberti de Bruce, filii sui, pro salute animæ suæ*," the churches of Moffat, Kirkpatrick, Drumsdale, Hoddam, and Castlemilk, (now St. Mungo). The date of this charter is not mentioned. It is highly probable, however, that it must have been about the year 1250 or 1260, when the cathedral church of *St. Mungo* at Glasgow was built, from which this parish has derived its name. Whether the whole of this parish, or only a part of it, was then called *Castlemilk*, as mentioned above, cannot now be ascertained.

Situation, Extent, Surface, Soil, and Minerals.—This parish lies in that part of the county of Dumfries which was formerly

merly called the stewartry of Annandale. It extends from N. to S. nearly 4 miles, and from E. to W. rather more. Being bounded with high hills to the E. and the W. it appears like a valley to the traveller at a distance; and the rising grounds in the middle of the parish, called *Nut-holm Hill**, are distinctly seen from the heights above Moffat, on the very boundary of Annandale. From different surveys, the parish is said to contain about 4000 Scotch acres; $\frac{2}{3}$ part of which is of a loamy and fertile soil. On the sloping sides of the rising grounds it is more sharp and stoney. The higher ground is in general the best, and is all arable, except a very few small spots, which contain iron and copper-stone in abundance. Some free-stone is found in the parish of a white colour, fit for building; and in some parts of the lowlands there are lime-stone and several valuable marl pits.

Rivers, Fish, Mineral Water, Woods, &c.—The river *Milk* runs along the N. E. side of the parish, and divides it from Tundergarth; afterwards it intersects the parish for almost two miles, and, on the eastern extremity, empties itself into the river *Annan*. The *Annan* runs nearly 4 miles along the S. and W. and separates St. Mungo from the parishes of Dalton and Cummertrees. Both these rivers abound with fresh water and sea-trout, salmon, and hirlings. These waters were much resorted to by sportsmen from distant parts of the country, but since the general use of lime as a manure, the number of fish has greatly decreased. In the *Annan*, a little below the manse, there is a pool called *the Rock-Hole*, vulgarly *Rotchel*, of an astonishing depth, formed in the middle of a rock, where incredible quantities of salmon are caught, by a new
and

* On Nut-holm Hill, the vestiges of a Roman, and of several British camps, could lately be distinctly traced; but by the lapse of time, and the progress of cultivation, they are now almost entirely defaced.

and singular mode of fishing, called *grappling*. Three or four large hooks are tied together, in different directions, on a strong line, having a weight of lead sufficient to make it sink immediately as low as the person inclines, and then by giving the rode a sudden jerk upward, the hooks are fixed into the salmon, which are thus dragged to land by force. Salmon and hirlings are most plentiful in these rivers in the month of August. This parish likewise abounds with springs of excellent water; and there is one mineral well, which, as far as the writer knows, has never been applied to any valuable purpose. There are also several natural woods and plantations, the banks of the Milk being clothed with natural wood, beautifully sloping towards the river; and the hills ornamented with planted wood on the most conspicuous parts.

Climate and Diseases, &c.—The air is generally moist for a considerable part of the year. As the Solway Frith is only 6 miles distant, and the country around is very hilly, greater quantities of rain are supposed to fall on this and the neighbouring parishes, than in any other part of the county. Notwithstanding of these circumstances, no epidemical diseases are prevalent here, and the inhabitants are uncommonly healthy, except that they are sometimes afflicted with the colic in rainy weather.

Population.—The population of St. Mungo has varied considerably at different periods:

In the year 1755, the number of souls was only	-	431	<i>Increase.</i>
In ——— 1763, by an accurate survey, it amounted to	-	600	
Increase in 8 years,	-	—	119
In ——— 1784, it was reduced to	-	560	
Decrease in 21 years *,	-	40	
In ——— 1792, by an exact enumeration, it had rose to	-	640	} <i>Surplus</i> 40
Increase in the last 8 years,	-	80	
Total increase in 37 years,	-	-	159

Employments, Wages, &c.—As this parish is surrounded with many thriving and populous villages, very few mechanics reside in it. There are only 2 or 3 joiners, and about as many weavers, blacksmiths, and tailors. There are no writers, surgeons, nor shoemakers in the parish. There is but one alehouse, situated on the turnpike road from Glasgow to Carlisle. The number of farmers, great and small, amounts to about 50; and of those who occupy cottages, the number may be nearly the same. The farmers cultivate their lands themselves, with the help of their families, servants, and cottagers. The wages of a man by the day have lately increased to 1s. 4d. or 1s. 6d. in summer, and to 10d. or 1s. in winter; and of a woman to 1s. in summer, and 8d. in winter. Servants hired by the half-year, and maintained in the house, are paid at the same rate,

Ecclesiastical State, &c.—All the inhabitants are of the Established Church, except 22. Of these 2 attend the English Chapel, 2 the Kirk of Relief, 2 the Burgher, and 16 the Antiburgher Meeting-Houses in the neighbourhood. The church and manse are situated in the very extremity of the parish to the S. W. on the bank of the river Annan, where the lands, which rise by a very gradual ascent, to the distance of half a mile, in every direction, have formed by nature a most delightful

* The cause of the decrease, between 1763 and 1784, is imputed to a division of the commons in the parish, which took place about the year 1770. The poorer sort of the people, being thus deprived of some of their former privileges, removed to the neighbouring towns of Lockerbie and Ecclesfechan. Another circumstance might have contributed to diminish the number of inhabitants. Sometime ago, a plan was adopted by some of the heritors, of rousing their muir farms annually; whereby they were more thinly inhabited, and frequently possessed by the proprietors themselves. Fortunately this cause of depopulation is removed, the farms being now let on lease.

lightful situation†. The present church was built in 1754, but seems never to have been properly finished. It is neither plastered nor ceiled. It has no bell; and the seats are in a ruinous condition. There are only the traces of a dyke around the church-yard.—The manse and offices were built only 7 years ago, at an expence of 374l. Sterling; and are already scarcely habitable! This singular fact can only be accounted for, from the absurd method, which the generality of heritors in this part of the country adopt, of contracting for manses, kirks, &c. with the friend of some leading man in the parish, or with such as will build them at the smallest expence. And though the presbytery get tradesmen upon oath, to declare them sufficient; yet even this does not produce the desired effect; for such people generally declare, not that the work is *substantially executed*, or that the houses will stand for a reasonable time, but only, that the money is laid out *according to the estimate*. Hence the houses built at the expence of the parish, are superficially executed, and consequently productive of much additional trouble and expence, both to the heritors and to those who occupy them.—The King is patron. The stipend was formerly only 50l. Sterling; it is now 52l. 10s. exclusive of the glebe, which is estimated at 40l. per annum, being upwards of 40 Scotch acres of the best land in the parish. About 2 years ago the present incumbent obtained an augmentation of 4 chalders of bear and meal, worth about 40l. more. There is *no parochial school* in the parish, nor any salary appropriated for the support

3 C 2

† In the centre of this vale, where the manse is placed, there are some remains of an ancient village (built probably by the friars from Glasgow), and likewise of an extensive garden, with a fish-pond in the middle of it. Of these, the present incumbent hath seen many infallible proofs, though neither tradition nor history (as far as he knows) have thrown any light on the subject.

port of a teacher. Proper measures are now taking to remedy this shameful defect.

Poor.—The number of persons receiving alms from the parish does not at present exceed 8; though it is sometimes greatly more. They are supported by the collections at the church, and by the charity of their neighbours. Though none of them are permitted to beg from house to house, yet we are greatly molested with vagrants from other parishes. Some wise regulations, obliging the poor to content themselves with seeking charity within the bounds of their respective parishes, were lately adopted by the justices of the peace, and had for a time a salutary effect. The officers however, have become more remiss in enforcing these regulations, and vagrants are nearly as numerous as before.

Proprietors, Rents, Improvements, &c.—There is one considerable proprietor, and about 19 others, who all reside, except two or three. One half of them possess their whole property themselves. The annual real rent is about 1800*l.* Sterling, and the valued rent 2285 merks Scotch. The farms are in general let from 20*l.* to 80*l.* per annum; and a few as low as 10*l.* About the year 1769, a spirit of improvement was introduced into the parish, the good effects of which are visible, in the substantial farm houses, enclosures, domestic economy, and the general appearance of the inhabitants. The whole parish is now enclosed, and the commons are under cultivation, which must, in a few years, greatly increase both the rent and the number of inhabitants. The greatest part of the parish is thirled to the mill of Castlemilk, and pays, of multure, nearly a 9th part of the whole; which is a very heavy drawback on the improvement of the country.

Produce

Produce and Cattle.—Oats, barley, rye, potatoes, flax, and some wheat, are produced in the parish. The oats and potatoes are generally consumed at home, and the barley is exported from Annan, either to Liverpool or Lancaster, or to some of the manufacturing towns near Glasgow. The wheat is sold to the bakers in Dumfries. The average price of oats is 2s.—of barley, 2s. 6d.—of rye, 5s.—and of wheat, 5s. 6d. the Winchester bushel. The farmers, and even the cottagers, feed swine for the market, which weigh from 10 to 20, or 22 stone each, 14 lib. to the stone. They are sold for the English market, from 3s. 6d. to 5s. a stone. The inhabitants likewise rear a considerable number of young cattle, which they generally sell when a year old; and there is hardly a farmer who does not rear a foal annually, which at a year old generally sells at from 8l. to 12l.

Wild Animals.—There are plenty of partridges and some muir-fowl in the parish. The swallow, cuckoo, wheat-ear, and woodcock, are the only birds of passage. The king's-fisher frequently appears on the banks of the rivers. The sea-gull from the Solway Frith, 6 miles distant, is the forerunner of excessive rains or high winds. There are also plenty of hares, and several foxes, in the parish.

Roads, Fuel, &c.—The great turnpike road from Carlisle to Glasgow runs through the E. end of the parish, by the bridge over the river *Milk*. The conversion of the statute labour into money, has contributed greatly to the improvement of the roads in the neighbouring parishes; and it is hoped, that this practice will soon be more effectually introduced into this. The want of a bridge over the river Annan, by which a communication might easily be opened with the Solway Frith, for the exportation of grain, and for the im-
Solway

portation of lime, and especially of coal, is a great obstruction to the improvement of this part of the country. The moles being almost exhausted, fuel is extremely scarce, the nearest coals being at the distance of 20 miles, which renders this necessary article of domestic œconomy very expensive. Some spirited exertions, however, are now making by one of the proprietors, to discover this useful mineral, and, from appearances, success may be hoped for.

C A S T L E M I L K.

There is only one gentleman's seat in this parish worthy of notice. Castlemilk stands on a most beautiful sloping hill, in the middle of a fine valley, through which the river *Milk* glides gently along. Oliver Cromwell invested this Castle; and though his entrenchments (still distinctly visible) had greatly the command of it, it stood out for a considerable time*. The Castle was demolished in the year 1707, and converted into a dwelling house, which has since been much improved. It is now one of the most delightful and romantic situations which can well be conceived, having fine pleasure grounds surrounding it, and a beautiful country in its neighbourhood. The present proprietor is ROBERTSON LIDDERDALE, Esq. †

N U M.

* From the tumuli in OLIVER's camp, and immediately under the Castle, which was opened some years ago, it is evident, that the loss of lives, in this siege, must have been very great.

† CASTLEMILK was formerly a seat of the ancient lords of Annandale, and came from the BRUCES to the STEWARTS by WALTER, High Steward of Scotland, marrying the daughter of King ROBERT BRUCE; and so descended to ROBERT, High Steward of Scotland, their son, the first of the STEWARTS that name to the Crown, in 1371. It afterwards belonged to the MAXWELLS and the DOUGLASSES.—It was besieged by the Duke of Somerset, Protector in the Minority of EDWARD VI.; whose station is still extant, the balls being found in 1771, when planting that spot, which is still called "the Cannon Holes."—Sir JOHN STEWART of Castlemilk, near Glasgow, takes his designation from his place.

NUMBER XXX.

ISLAND AND PARISH OF CIMBRAES.

(County of Ayr—Presbytery of Irvine—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By a Friend of the Rev. Mr. HENRY GRAHAM, Minister of that Parish.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE name CAMBRAY, CIMBRAY, or *Cimbraes*, is said to be derived from the Gaelic, implying a place of shelter, or refuge. It is an island in the Frith of Clyde, surrounded by the sea, distant from Largs 2 miles, upon the E.; from the Island of Bute 4 miles, to the W.; and separated from the *Little Cimbraes*, upon the S., by a strait three quarters of a mile over. The length of the island, from N. E. to S. W., is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles; the breadth, from E. to W., $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. It is of an irregular figure. The surface contains about 2,300 acres, one third of which is, or might be made, arable.

Hills and Prospects.—With few exceptions, the hills rise with a gentle ascent, to the various heights and forms they assume,

assume, from the skirts of the island, till towards the centre, where they may come near 400 feet above the level of the sea; and, unless in 2 or 3 places, they are not much incumbered with rocks. The prospect, from every point of view, is delightful; particularly from the S., where the Little Cimbres, and the Point of Pencrofs, with their ancient castles, bound it by sea. The Frith, too, often displays the beautiful scenery of the extensive navigation of the West; while that noble beacon, Eilfa, rises towards the horizon; and, to the N., Gatefield, in Arran, seems to support the clouds on its brow*.

Climate and Diseases.—The island, being surrounded by the sea, and there being little marshy ground, the air is pure and salubrious. Snow seldom lies long; and frost does not penetrate deep, unless in very severe winters. Its effect upon the vegetables in the gardens, is much less than on the adjoining grounds. The parish abounds with excellent spring water. These advantages, joined with temperance and industry, contribute greatly to the health of the inhabitants. As an evidence of the goodness of the climate, there are at present (May 1793), 35 people above 60 years of age in the island; an uncommon number advanced in years, in so small a community. There is no particular disease prevalent. Fevers rarely visit the island; and, when they do, seldom prove fatal†. Inoculation now prevails, which renders the small-pox both much milder, and more frequent.

Soil,

* Unless the weather is particularly clear, a cloud generally hangs on the top of Gatefield.

† In the year 1783, a great number of people were attacked by a nervous fever; but it proved fatal in only one instance. The small-pox frequently made great depredations, when the infection was introduced but once in several years, which indeed was the case about 40 years ago, in most places of Scotland. They generally appeared in those days with pestilential malignity.

Soil, Cultivation, Produce, and Minerals.—The soil, in general, is a gravelly loam, and some clay. It produces good crops of oats, bear, pease, potatoes, and some flax. The manure, besides what is made on the farms, is sea weed, and shells, with small coral, which they dig out of pits in several parts of the island. It has been observed, that were the farms more generally inclosed, and subdivided and improved, by the introduction of turnips and sown grass, it would add much to the fertility of the island. The advantage of these improvements, and the addition of the manure, upon their farms, that such crops would produce, could not fail, with the industry of the farmers of this island, to be highly beneficial, and would put the ground in a progressive state of melioration. Were a plan of this kind properly formed, there can be little doubt but suitable encouragement would be given by the proprietors, by assisting them in inclosing their farms, and by lengthening their leases, which are too short, and their renewal too precarious, for great exertions; a circumstance which equally affects the interest of the proprietor and tenant. There is plenty of lime-stone in the island; but the great expence of coal has hitherto prevented its being used as a manure. There is also an unexhaustible fund of free-stone.

Trees.—There are few trees on the island; but the few we have, seem to grow tolerably well. Lord Glasgow has made a small plantation of pines and Scotch firs, on a piece of moorish rising ground; and, should they thrive, the hills might be planted farther up; and, assisted by the shelter of those below, in keeping them from the influence of the sea water, such plantations might, in time, be very valuable, from the demand on the Clyde, and the advantage of water carriage.

Population.—The population of this island is nearly doubled within these 40 years. On the 1st of January 1793, there were in the parish,

Males,	-	-	-	247	Persons under 60 years of age,	474
Females,	-	-	-	262	— between 60 and 70,	18
				—	— 70 and 80,	10
	In all,	-	-	509	— 80 and 90,	6
Families,	-	-	-	108	— aged 96,	1
Average of births for 10 years,				20		—
— marriages,	—	—	—	4	Total,	509
— deaths,	—	—	—	8½		

The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was - - - - - 259

Hence there is an increase of - - - - - 250

The number of weavers is	-	4	Number of joiners,	-	3
— tailors	-	5	— masons and quarriers*,	-	16

Cattle, Commerce, Fish, Manufactures, &c.—There are at present, on the island, 33 horses, 350 black cattle, and 347 sheep. The prices of provisions are regulated by the Greenock market. The farmers find a ready sale for what they can spare, after supplying their families, among the seafaring people and tradesmen; who, besides a ready market, save them the expence of carriage. The fish chiefly caught here, are haddocks, cod, whittings, lyth, cuddies, mackerel, and a few herrings. Of shell fish, too, there is some variety, but in no great quantity. No manufactures of any consequence have ever been attempted here. The chief obstacles, to any considerable exertion in that way, are the expence of fuel, the want of a sufficient run of water to drive machinery, and the

* The farmers and their servants constitute but a small part of the community, the seafaring people being the most numerous. Servants wages are much the same as in the neighbouring parishes: men servants from 6l. to 8l. Sterling, a year; women, from 3l. to 4l. A mason gets 2s., a joiner 1s. 8d., and a tailor 10d., with meat, per day.

the ferry being often interrupted by storms. From 1600 to 2000 yards of coarse linen, however, and some linen yarn, are exported from the island; with free-stone, to the value of fully more than 200l. a year*.

Village, Harbour and Roads—The village of *Milnport*, contains about 60 houses, which have been mostly built within these 25 years, and are still increasing. It is pleasantly situated on the S. W. side of the island, and has a commodious dry harbour, that will admit vessels of considerable burden, particularly during spring tides, when the water rises from 10 to 12 feet along the shores. There is also an anchoring ground, which is well sheltered by a small rocky island, where vessels may be moored to iron rings in the rocks, and ride in safety in the greatest storms. The prosperity of this village, as well as that of the island, is much owing to its being the rendezvous of the Royal George revenue cutter, Captain James Crawford. The officers and crew of this vessel are inhabitants of the island. There is little done to the roads, excepting to that between the village and ferry, which has lately been repaired, and a ready intercourse established between the island and Largs.

Proprietors and Rents.—The whole island belongs to the Earls of Glasgow† and Bute. The valued rent is 1087l. 8s. 2d.

* All the free-stone, employed in erecting the much improved harbour of Portpatrick, was taken from this island.

† About the beginning of last century, according to the tradition of the island, there was a family of the name of Montgomerie, who then possessed the greatest part of the land now belonging to Lord Glasgow, and had a mansion house at Billikellet. Among the last of that family was Dame Margaret Montgomerie, joint patroness of the kirk, who, being on horseback at the green of the Largs, is said to have been thrown off amidst a crowd of people; but, being a woman of high spirit, she pursued the horse, and received a stroke of his foot, which

Scotch; the real rent is nearly 700l. The average rent of the arable land may be from 10s. to 12s. per acre; and the remainder of heath and pasture, from 1s. to 2s. per acre.

Church, Poor, and School.—The value of the living is about 70l., with a small glebe. The Earl of Glasgow is patron. The church was built in the 1612, and is now too small to accommodate the inhabitants. The manse was built about 26 years ago, and is in good repair. There are few poor upon the session list. The collections made at the church door, amounting to about 16l., with the interest of a small fund, is nearly equal to their support. English, writing, and arithmetic, are carefully taught, and the school is pretty well attended; but the schoolmaster's salary and perquisites are very trifling.

Natural Curiosities.—There are two rocks, called *Reppel Walls*, on the E. side of the island. They rise out of the elevated ground, and run along, or rather across, a plain near the sea, in the direction of S. by E., and N. by W., distant from each other 500 feet, running in parallel lines; the one to the E. about 30 feet in height, 89 in length, mean thickness 10 feet; that to the W. 200 feet long, 70 feet high, where it comes out of the hill, and 60 feet near its outer end; the thickness 12 feet. In the same direction, there is the appearance of a foundation running into the sea. Something similar to these are seen in the opposite side of the island.
They

which proved instantly fatal. The arms of this family are upon the end of the kirk, and were lately to be seen on a part of the ruins of Billikellet. About a quarter of a mile from Billikellet, there is a large stone set up on end. About 6 feet of it is above the ground. It appears to have been the rude monument of some ancient hero. There is also a place which the inhabitants point out, as having been a Danish camp, though no vestiges of it now remain.

They have joints and seams like the basaltic rocks in Staffa, but not columnar. They are composed of the same materials, and may be estimated as the production of volcanic fusion and eruption; a process of nature, which, however dreadful and tremendous, seems to be productive of the greatest changes the surface of this globe has undergone.

Character.—The people are sober, regular and industrious, in a remarkable degree. It is not known, that any person born in this parish has ever stood trial before a criminal court. Considering their opportunity of improvement, they may be deemed intelligent; and it is but justice to the seafaring part of the community to say, that, for *their* line of life, their general conduct is peculiarly proper and praise-worthy.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXI.

PARISH OF KING-EDWARD.

(Presbytery of Turriff—County and Synod of Aberdeen.)

By ALEXANDER SIMPSON, A. M. Schoolmaster of the Parish.

Name, Figure, River, Surface, and Soil.

KEN-EDAR was the ancient name of the parish, which, like all the old names of places in this country, is no doubt a word of Gaelic derivation. The parish is of an oblong irregular figure, from the northern extremity, which is within a quarter of a mile of the town of Banff, extending 12 English miles S. E. and varying from 2 to 5 miles in breadth. The Deveron runs along the W. end of it for several miles, and divides it from the parish of Alvah; but two detached parts of the latter lie on this side the river, one of which meeting the parish of Gamry, entirely disjoins the N. end of this parish from the rest. The country, though flat, rather than hilly, is diversified with high and low grounds, and intersected by several burns and rivulets. All the higher lands are covered with short heath, and except where the soil is entirely moss, or extremely poor, retain marks of former cultivation. The soil is in general dry and gravelly, but, as
may

may be expected, in a parish of such extent, fields of a different and opposite nature are not uncommon.

Heritors, Extent, Rent, &c.—The parish is the property of the Earl of Fife, William Urquhart of Craigston, Adam Urquhart of Byth, ——— Gordon of Iden, and John Russell and John Taylor of Balmad; all of whom, except the Earl of Fife and the proprietor of Iden, reside in the parish. From an actual survey of the several estates, except that of Iden, a computation of the measurement of which is here included, the parish is found to contain 14,000 Scotch acres, of which 6482 are arable, 4402 moor and pasture, and 1982 mofs. On the property of the Earl of Fife there are 550 acres of wood, on that of Mr. Urquhart of Craigston 500, and on that of Mr. Urquhart of Byth 84 acres, consisting of various kinds of forest trees; but chiefly Scotch fir. In low and sheltered situations, the wood is thriving and of large size; but in those that are elevated, and more exposed to the killing blasts from the N. sea, it rises little higher than a shrub; however, under cover of these shrubs, a second plantation makes greater progress; so that by attention and perseverance, trees of considerable size may be raised in places which appear the most unfavourable to their growth. The valued rent of the parish is 4098l. 6s. 8d. Scotch; the present rent, including 1417 bolls of meal, at 10s. per boll, is not under 2285l. Sterling. Customs and personal services are falling into disuse, and on the Earl of Fife's estate they are all commuted. The heritors of Balmad enjoy only the increase of rent which has taken place since the year 1750, or thereabout, when this estate was sold, by King's College; the rent which it bore at the time of the sale continues to be paid to the said College and the school of Fordyce.

Fishery.—The salmon fishing on the Deveron, below the cruives,

cruives, is partly in this and partly in the parish of Banff; and being the property of the Earl of Fife, and let to one tacksmen, the rent, as far as this parish is concerned, cannot be exactly ascertained. An account of the rent of the whole has been anticipated, in the report for the parish of Gamry*. The salmon caught above the cruives are sold at home at 2d. per lb.

Mills and Multures.—The parish is accommodated with 2 lint mills, 2 waulk mills, and 10 for grinding corn. For grain carried to the mill, the rate of multure varies from $\frac{1}{11}$ to $\frac{1}{10}$, and for what is sold unmanufactured $\frac{1}{17}$ is generally exacted, which is called dry or abstracted multure. From these mills, the heritors, who have their tenants restricted to a certain mill, receive annually about 328 bolls of meal, part of the rent in grain before mentioned. To enable the tacksmen to pay this mill rent, and to defray their own labour and charges, the quantity of meal made annually in the parish, together with the grain sold unmanufactured, must be from 7000 to 8000 bolls.

Church and School.—The Rev. Mr. ROBERT DUFF is minister of the parish. The church, which is an old building, has been repaired, and the manse rebuilt since his admission to the charge. The living is 60l. 10s. 1d. Sterling, in money; 4 chalders, 2 firlots, 2 pecks, of meal, and 1 chalders of bear, with a glebe of 12 or 13 acres of arable and pasture land. The King is patron.—The schoolmaster's salary, lately augmented, and paid by the heritors, is 10l.; as session-clerk he receives 2l. 3s. 4d. Scotch, for a proclamation of marriage, and for registration of a baptism 6d. Sterling, each. At present the number of scholars is 27, who are taught to read English at

* See Vol. I., No. L.

at 2s., writing, arithmetic, or Latin, at 2s. 6d. per quarter.

Poor.—The number of poor at present on the roll is 29. The collections in the church 18l.; interest of money saved, 12l. 10s.; annual rent of a mortification, 6l. 10s.; seat rents, 1l. 5s.; penalties, and the use of a mortcloth, 5l. make a yearly revenue of 43l. 5s. for their support.

Population.—The population of this parish has been almost stationary for the last 10 years, but has increased above one 6th within the 30 preceding:

In the year 1783, the number of souls was	1572	
In ——— 1793, it is	1577	Increase 5
But in ——— 1755, it was only	1352	—— 220
Total increase in 40 years,		—— 225

Of these there are belonging to the Established Church,	1520
Episcopals,	30
Roman Catholics,	8
Relief Seceders,	15
Bereans,	4

Village.—New Byth, which is the only village in the parish, began to be feued in 1764, on a plan similar to that of Cuminstown in Monquhitter *. It contains 195 inhabitants, and enjoys the advantage of a charity school. By feuing and dividing the land into small parcels, James Urquhart, the late proprietor of Byth, raised the rent of his estate nearly to 5 times what it was in 1731, when he came to the management of it. The valuation of this estate is only one 10th, and the number of its inhabitants more than one 4th of the whole parish.

A house, formerly intended as a linen manufactory, and for some time used as such, distant from the parish church 10 miles, was last year converted into a chapel of ease, for the accommodation of the people at Byth. Application was made to the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, for the aid of their bounty, who, with reservation of the right of patronage, agreed to give 25l. a-year for the support of a clergyman, upon condition that the heritor of Byth would give security for the same sum, afford him a dwelling-house and offices, with land sufficient to maintain a horse and 2 cows. As these conditions are complied with, the affair will be established on such a footing as to afford a decent living to the missionary, and be a lasting advantage, not only to this parish, but to those parts of some neighbouring parishes, which are also distant from their own churches.

Agriculture, &c.—All the people, even those who are handicraftsmen and artificers, are employed in agriculture. According to their extent, and the quality of the land, the rent of farms varies from 6l. to 85l., valuing the meal at 10s. per boll. Improvements in agriculture have made considerable progress for some years past. The mode of culture, and rotation of crops, have undergone a great and almost total alteration since the year 1745: Even later than that period, the use and efficacy of lime as a manure*, the advantage of artificial grasses, fallow, and green crops, were little known: These are now so common, that not only the principal farmers, but almost every cottager, has a proportion of his land in

* Instead of each farmer for himself burning lime at home, which till lately was the general practice, shell lime from England and the S. of Scotland is imported by those principally who are distant from lime-stone. It is only 5 or 6 years since this trade began, and so much has the demand increased, that 14 cargoes were imported at Macduff this season.

in potatoes, turnips, and clover. Small black oats, which formerly occupied what was called the out-field, have given place to white oats; and the distinction of infield and outfield begins to be less attended to. After fallow or turnips, where the land is dry, the following crop is barley, with sown grass for 3 or 4 years; where the land is wet, oats are found to succeed better. After breaking up, the rotation differs according to the nature of the soil, and genius of the farmer. Most families raise flax sufficient for private use; and some have obtained premiums from the trustees.—The advantages of inclosures are better understood than experienced. Excepting the fields in the immediate possession of some of the heritors, we have few fenced with stone or hedge. Stones fit for building are not to be found above ground in any part of the parish; and inclosing with hedge, or stone quarried and carried to a distance, would be attended with an expence, greater than the rent of land and the shortness of leases can afford. Though some of the heritors are disposed to make compensation at the expiration of a lease, for building and inclosing; yet the expence of both, or either of these, would sink too much of the small stock, with which many commence farmers.

Manner of Living, Produce, &c.—Animal food is rarely an article in the bill of fare, but on holidays; among the better sort of farmers, tea is used once and often twice a-day; and occasionally among those of inferior rank. Instead of ale, with which our forefathers used to make merry, whisky punch is now used at all social meetings. Oats, bear, and pease-meal, potatoes, and other vegetables, with milk, constitute the ordinary fare of the bulk of the people. Besides what is necessary for this purpose, all the rent paid in grain, and a considerable quantity of meal and grain, belonging to the te-

nants, are annually exported to the S. and W. of Scotland. When the price is low, bear-meal sometimes finds a market in Norway. The brewery of ale and porter at Banff, and the small licensed whisky stills in the neighbourhood, afford a good market for barley: These last, besides increasing the consumption and price of barley, and supplying us with whisky, of a quality greatly superior to what we have from the large stills in the southern districts, as well as cheaper, and no less wholesome than foreign spirits, have given a great check to smuggling, and, in every point view, are a reciprocal advantage to the farmers, and the country at large*. Extending the pasture, and rearing cattle for the grazier and drover, are at present the principal objects of the farmer; for this purpose turnips are more frequently applied to, than feeding for the butcher. A high proportion of rent in kind is sometimes an obstruction to this mode of farming, as it lays the tenant under the necessity of keeping more land in tillage, than he can properly manure, which must prevent him from having either so much grass or corn, as he might have, at less expence, if not so restricted. But the conversion of such rent into money

* In 1782, some farms of an early soil produced what was necessary to pay master and servant; but the deficiency of the crop of that year, was such, in general, as to make the importation of grain from England necessary. It would be doing injustice to the principal proprietors of the parish, not to mention that they voluntarily shared the calamity of that, and the following year, by supplying the people with meal and grain at a reduced price, accepting bear-meal instead of oat-meal for part of their grain rent, and a moderate conversion in money for what they could not afford to pay in kind. By these acts of humanity on the part of the heritors, the disbursement of 80*l.* extraordinary from the poor's fund, and 15 bolls of meal sent by Government, the wants of the poor were supplied, and the unfortunate assisted. An advance in the price of black cattle, and the plentiful crop 1784, still more effectually repaired the loss sustained by the two preceding years, which would otherwise have been more deeply felt.

money having in some instances taken place, and every addition of rent, on renewing a lease, beng now in money, this inconvenience will soon be removed.

Cattle, Wages, &c.—The parish at present maintains 1792 black cattle, 447 horses, and 1334 sheep. About 400 black cattle can be spared annually; most of them being sold young, at or under 3 years old, the average price may be estimated at 3l. 15s. The number of ploughs is 135, of which 15 are drawn by oxen, 76 by 2 horses, and 44 by 4 horses, each;—of carts 326, of which 3 are drawn by oxen, 76 by 2 horses in a line, and 247 by a single horse each. By a stronger breed of horses, and an improved construction of ploughs and carts, the operations of husbandry are greatly facilitated, and the increasing price of labour in some measure counterbalanced. A single man, with a pair of horses, will do more work in the same time, than was performed by 2 men and 4 horses, 40 years ago. The hire of a man qualified to work a pair of horses is from 6l. to 8l.;—of a woman farm-servant, from 2l. 10s. to 3l. per annum;—of a man engaged for harvest 1l. 10s.;—of a woman for ditto, 1l. 1s., with maintainance. The day-labourer earns 8d. with, or 10d. without maintenance; when employed at cutting hay, 1s. with, or 1s. 4d. without victuals. Women are chiefly employed in making woollen and linen cloth for family use, and partly for sale, spinning flax for the thread and linen manufacturers, knitting stockings, and in the dairy*.

Sheep,

* About 60 years ago, they were much employed in making a species of woollen cloth called *white webs*, containing 30 ells each, which were usually sold at 1s. per ell. At the above period, and for some years after, when the number of sheep was perhaps ten times what it is at present, this manufacture must have been very advantageous; but from the desire of present profit, the cloth was often made so slight and coarse, as to ruin a trade, which, under proper management, might have been of lasting benefit to the country.

Sheep, Commerce, &c.—When sheep abounded here, the pasture, which for a great part of the year was common, was so overstocked, and so little food afforded them in time of snow, that many hundreds died in a severe season; and those that survived were of small size and value. When so little attention was paid to them, the profits of a flock must have been small and uncertain, which, with the expence of winter herding, when turnips and sown grass were introduced, may be assigned as the principal causes, why their number is so greatly diminished. Where they still retain their ground, the breed is improved both as to size and quality of wool. The articles which bring in money, are grain, cattle, butter, cheese, and linen yarn. Of these, cattle, in the opinion of the most judicious farmers, is the staple commodity.

Roads and Fuel.—The public roads are made and repaired by the statute labour, which the people perform with reluctance, and often in a superficial manner. The post road from Banff to Turriff is well supplied with bridges, and has of late been much improved; but on this, as well as on many private roads, much remains to be done. It is the general opinion, that assessments in money, or the introduction of turnpikes, are the only effectual way of making and keeping the roads in good repair, as the experience of many years shews the statute labour to be inadequate to that purpose.—Peats, turf, and broom, are used for fuel. Wet seasons, of which we have had many of late, together with the great expence of preparing and bringing home peats, induced many to burn English coal, even before the late reduction of duty on that necessary of life took place.

Character of the People.—The people are sober and industrious, submissive to the laws, and attached to their respective

tive heritors. Though not in affluent circumstances, they all enjoy the necessaries, and many of them, the comforts of life; and seem as well satisfied with their situation as can be expected. In point of living, dress, and cleanliness, their condition is superior to what it was in former times. It is highly reasonable, that an order of men, by the fruit of whose labours all are fed, should enjoy such a competence as to make their condition easy and comfortable. They claim the support and encouragement of all who wish well to their country, who have any interest in its prosperity, or power to promote it.

Proposed Improvements.—To give greater encouragement to the industrious, and make improvements in agriculture more permanent and extensive, nothing is more requisite in this place than longer leases. The usual period of leases does not exceed 19 years; though, it must be owned, there are exceptions on Craigston's and the Earl of Fife's estates.—The conversion of multures, and particularly of abstracted multures, might likewise promote this end, and would certainly free the future generation from an accumulating tax on improvement. As what is here suggested is at present in agitation, and has already, in some instances, taken place, this grievance will be soon remedied, and the people enjoy the same privilege in manufacturing their grain, which they have in making their carts and ploughs, of employing those who serve them best.

Castle —On the post road from Turriff to Banff, stands the ruin of the *Castle of King Edward* (from which the parish probably derived its name), the ancient seat of the once powerful Earl of Buchan *. It seems to have been a place
of

* In the year 1272, ALEXANDER CUMIN, Earl of BUCHAN, founded an Hospital

of great strength, fortified on the S. side by a steep rock, washed by the burn of King-Edward, and, on the other side, where the site of the building is on a level with the adjacent ground, by a wide and deep ditch.

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pital at Turriff, and endowed it with a certain extent of land in the neighbourhood of that village, and an annual payment of grain, 2 chalders of meal, and 3 chalders of bear, in lieu of the tythes of his Castle of KEN-EDAR. This hospital was to contain 13 poor men who had been labourers in the country of Buchan, and a master and 6 chaplains, who were to say daily prayers for his soul, for the souls of his predecessors and successors, and of King ALEXANDER the III.

A law was lately opened on the farm of Strathairn, in which was found a small urn containing some ashes; in digging away the earth many loose irregular stones were found, particularly round the base of the mount, and in some places marks of fire were discovered. On the same farm there is a small spot, called GIVEN GROUND, which, till lately, it was thought sacrilege to break with spade or plough. It is now converted into a corn field, nor has any interruption been given by the ancient proprietors. This is mentioned as one instance, among many, of the decline of superstition.

NUMBER XXXII.

PARISH OF CRIMOND.

(County and Synod of Aberdeen—Presbytery of Deer.)

*By Mr. WILLIAM GALL, Assistant to the Rev. Mr. JAMES
JOHNSTON Minister of the Parish.*

Situation, Extent, Surface, and Rivulets, &c.

THE parish of Crimond is situated in that district of Aberdeenshire, called Buchan, and lies nearly in a line between the sea port towns of Peterhead and Frazerburgh; being about $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant from the former, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ from the latter; and bounded on the N. E. by the German Ocean. The figure of the parish, including the Loch of Strathbeg, (part of which is in the parish of Loanmay), is triangular. The base of the triangle, adjacent to the German Ocean, is nearly 3 miles, and its height is about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles. It contains about 4600 acres, of which nearly 3000 are arable. The remainder is occupied by mosses, links, sands, a common, and the lake of Strathbeg. About a quarter of a mile from high water mark, there is a steep hill along the shore, almost perpendicular, and nearly 200 feet in height. From the summit of this hill there is a gradual descent for about a mile, till the

ground be but a little higher than the level of the sea; after which there is a gradual ascent, with a few variations, to the upper part of the parish. As the parish lies very flat, there are few springs of soft water; and, in dry summers, many have considerable difficulty, and must go to a great distance to procure water for themselves and their cattle. There are a few streams of soft water in the parish, arising from mosses; but they contain very little water in summer. The most considerable of these streams, or burns, divides the parish of Crimond from Loanmay, and falls into the Loch of Strathbeg; but its whole course, with all its turnings, will not exceed 4 miles. Yet, though there is rather a scarcity of soft water, there are many mineral springs; most of them are supposed to be much impregnated with iron. None of them, however, have been much used for any medicinal purpose.

Heritors and Rent.—The parish is divided among 4 heritors: Mr. Irvine of Drum, proprietor of the lands of Crimond and Millhill; Mr. Harvey of Broadland, proprietor of the lands of Rattray and Broadland; Mr. Duff of Feteresso, proprietor of Logie; and Mr. Annand of Haddo, proprietor of Haddo; besides 2, who possess only a few acres each. Of these, Mr. Harvey of Broadland generally resides. The valued rent of the parish is 2172l. 13s. 4d. Scotch; the real rent is above 1300l. Sterling. The value of the land here has risen very considerably during the last 50 or 60 years.

Manufactures and Commerce.—From the scarcity of water in the parish, there can be no manufactures established here. The women, however, are employed partly in spinning flax, for the manufacturers of Aberdeen and Peterhead; partly in spinning tow, which is manufactured into a coarse kind of narrow cloth, called *barn*, which labouring people use for shirts,

shirts, and which sells, unbleached, at about 6d. or 7d. per yard; or into a still coarser kind, which is made into bags for carrying grain, and which, being much closer woven, sells at about 8d. or 10d. per yard. A considerable quantity of this cloth is sold yearly at different fairs in this neighbourhood; and a still greater proportion of linen yarn is spun, and sent by land carriage, chiefly to Aberdeen, a distance of 35 miles. The women will gain, by spinning, from 4d. to 6d. a day.

Fish, Kelp, &c.—The coast abounds in fish, particularly cod, which are of an excellent kind (Rattray cod being very famous); but for want of a proper landing place, they are not caught in very great quantities here. There is no fishing town in the parish; but some of the crofters and artificers, on the estates of Broadland and Haddo, fish in good weather, when they are not otherwise employed. Mr. Harvey of Broadland proposes to make a proper landing place, but has not yet begun to put his plan in execution. Sea weed, or ware, is used as a manure; and a small quantity of kelp is manufactured here. *Rattray Head*, in this parish, is a very dangerous rock. It is very low, and stretches a good way into the sea. A great number of vessels have been shipwrecked there. In these cases, the conduct of so many of the lower ranks, in this and the neighbouring parishes, especially of those who are most adjacent to Rattray Head, can by no means be justified; for they pilfer and carry off from the wreck whatever they can lay hold on, sometimes in a very barefaced manner. The erection of a light-house at Kinnaird's Head, about 7 miles W. from Rattray Head, will probably render these wrecks less frequent at the latter. The last ship wrecked there was the *Delight of Burlington*, a large vessel, laden with iron, wood and tallow, in November or December 1790.

Climate and Soil.—The climate is healthy, and seems not so liable to infectious disorders, as other parishes in the neighbourhood. The putrid sore throat raged with great violence 2 or 3 years ago, in most parishes in the neighbourhood, and carried off great numbers; but though a few were seized with it in Crimond, none died of that disorder. Consumptive disorders are most frequent here. At present an infectious fever prevails, which has proved fatal to several. In spring 1792, 20 people, from 1 to 16 years of age, were inoculated for the small pox. One of them did not catch the infection; the other 19 had them in the most favourable manner. But notwithstanding this success, the example is not likely to be followed.

The land next the shore is a very light sandy soil, which produces, in general, weighty crops of bear, pease and beans. It is easily cultivated, and would produce excellent crops of early grass; but this husbandry has been seldom attempted in that part of the parish. In the N. W. part of the parish, for 2 or 3 miles from the sea, is a light loam, earlier than most other parts; and some of it produces weighty crops. Part is on a clay bottom; much of it is a cold damp late soil, particularly near the mosses; and as a great part of the parish appears once to have been covered with moss, this soil is to be found in many places. The only grain produced here is oats, bear, pease and beans; the two last in not very great quantities.

Agriculture and Produce.—It is but lately that any considerable improvements in agriculture were made here. It is indeed nearly 60 years since Mr. Irvine of Crimond began to use lime. But so little was the nature of that manure known at that time, that he took 7, 8, and even 11 successive crops
after

after liming. Some fields have not yet recovered the bad effects of this over-cropping. When the tenants, about 30 or 40 years ago, began to use lime, the landlords, in order to prevent over cropping, caused insert a clause in the leases they granted, prohibiting tenants from taking more than 4 crops after folding with sheep or cattle, and 5 after liming, without the intervention of a green crop; but if the 5th crop after liming was pease, they could, by their lease, make the 6th bear, and then a 7th and 8th oats. It is easy to see, that such a mode of using ground, must have greatly retarded improvement. Liming is not much used at present here, as most of the ground, for which it is proper, has already been limed, and got such a large dose, that a second liming is rather hurtful than beneficial. What lime is now used, is commonly harrowed in with bear, and clover and rye-grass seeds, after turnips and potatoes, in old infield ground. Shell marl is beginning to be used as a manure, and seems to answer well.

It is not much above 20 years since potatoes, turnips, or artificial grasses, were to be seen in the fields in any quantity. But people now begin to perceive the advantages of those improvements. Potatoes are planted in quantities sufficient to supply the consumption of the parish, which is considerable. A few were sold last year for exportation; but the expence of land carriage will probably prevent any attempts to raise them for exportation. Many have large fields of turnips. Summer fallow is sometimes used; and the potatoe, turnip, and fallow fields are generally sown down with rye-grass, and red and white clover seeds; and sometimes grass seeds are sown in ground not so well prepared. But a great deal remains to be done; and it will be a long time before the district can arrive at the degree of cultivation it is capable of. There is no regular rotation of crops carried on here, unless by one or two tenants. A very good rotation, which has been used,

used, is, 1st, turnips, potatoes, pease, or fallow; 2d, in a light soil, oats; and, in a strong, barley, each with artificial grasses; 3d, hay; 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th, pasture; 8th, oats: 9th, sometimes oats, which finishes the rotation; sometimes bear; and, in that case, 10th oats.

Nearly the half of the arable ground in the parish is in natural or artificial grasses. About a 5th part of the remainder is in potatoes, turnips, pease, or other green crop. Every tenant, for the most part, has a greater or lesser quantity of flax, chiefly for family use. What remains, is in oats and barley. The turnips are used, partly in feeding cattle for the butcher, but chiefly in rearing young cattle. The parish will produce nearly, on an average, 6000 bolls of grain annually; of which from 1000 to 2000 are exported; the remainder is needed for seed, and the supply of the inhabitants. The value of cattle sold yearly, including a few sheep, amounts to more than the grain exported. Very fine cattle are reared and fed here. The number of black cattle is rather above 800. There are but few sheep. About 20 years ago, horses used to be brought from other places, to supply the farmers in this and the neighbouring parishes; but now good horses are reared and exported. The number of horses in the district is exactly 205. Some farmers also dispose of a little hay.

Some time ago, in this district, the plough was drawn by 6 horses, or 10 or 12 oxen; now 4 horses, or 4 oxen, and sometimes 2 horses, are used. The Scotch plough is generally employed. There is scarcely any of the parish inclosed, which is partly compensated by the practice of winter herding. About 16 or 20 years ago, many of the tenants began to inclose with earthen fences; and perhaps a third part of the parish was inclosed in that manner. But as these fences soon mouldered away, and became insufficient, a stop was put to that manner of inclosing, and the earthen fences were generally

rally thrown down. In some parts of the district, stones are not to be got in sufficient quantities for inclosing; and, even where they can be got, a tenant can hardly be expected to inclose on a lease of 19 years, the longest generally granted here.

The shortness of leases usually given, seems to present an insuperable bar to perfection in agriculture. From the decreasing value of money, the landlord imagines he must be a loser by granting a long lease. But might not a lease be granted for 3, 4, or 5 nineteen years, without any material injury to the landlord, arising from the progressive decrease of the value of money? For instance, might not the rent of a farm be regulated by the price of oatmeal, or of any kind of grain? Suppose a farm to be let for 20l., and the price of oatmeal, at the beginning of the lease, to be 10s. per boll, then the rent, or 20l., would be equivalent to 40 bolls of oatmeal. Suppose, at the end of the first 19 years, the price of oatmeal, on an average of 7 years, to be 12s. per boll, then let the rent for the second 19 years be the price of 40 bolls of meal, at 12s. per boll, or 24l. Suppose, at the end of the second 19 years, oatmeal to be 14s per boll, then let the rent, for the third 19 years, be the price of 40 bolls of meal, at 14s. per boll, or 28l. The rising rent might in the same manner be regulated by the price of cattle or sheep of a certain weight, or of beef or wool, or other productions of the farm. A moderate advance might likewise be made for the capability of improvement. A long lease might surely be granted, upon this or a similar plan, without materially injuring the landlord; while the tenant would be encouraged to attempt substantial improvements, as he would have a certain prospect of reaping the fruits of his industry.

Population.

Population.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls, in 1755; was 765*.

POPULATION in February 1792.

Males above 10,	-	313	Members of the Established Church,	
—— below 10,	-	117	children included,	- 662
Females above 10,	-	390	Scotch Episcopalians,	- 244
—— below 10,	-	97	Antiburgher Seceders,	- 8
		——	Roman Catholics,	- - 3
Total †,	-	917	Number of families,	- - 221

* About the time that the return was made to Dr. Webster, and for some time after, the population was said to be on the increase, owing chiefly to the dividing of large farms into smaller ones. But since the year 1770, the population seems to have been upon the decrease. In 1772, it appears, from the list kept by the overseer of the roads, that there were 232 men in the parish, from 16 to 60, liable to work on the highways. These have gradually decreased since. In 1781, there were but 200; and last year only 171.

† In February 1793, there was a decrease of 15, owing to the removal of 2 families and 5 or 6 artizans out of the parish.—It is impossible to give any account of the births, deaths, and marriages. Scarcely any of the dissenters insert their childrens births in the register; and even some of the Established Church are equally negligent. Before 1783, no register of burials and marriages was kept, and scarcely the half have been registered since that period. The decrease of the population may, among other causes, contribute to the high price of labour, and to what is of worse consequence, the difficulty of procuring labourers. At the time that the large farms were divided into smaller ones, the subtenants and cottagers rented partly the smaller farms, and partly crofts, from the heritor, which were generally too large. When the possessors of these small farms and crofts were found not to be the best improvers of the ground, the landlords began to put two or more of the small farms into one, so that now there are scarcely any subtenants, and few crofts let by the heritors. As there are no villages in the parish, and no cottages to be let, but such as have a piece of ground annexed to them, young people, for want of a settlement, remove to the manufacturing towns of Peterhead and Aberdeen; so that day-labourers and handicraft people are procured with the greatest difficulty. It would probably be of great advantage both to themselves and the public, if the heritors would allot a small

*Church**, *School*, *Poor*, &c.—The stipend is a chalder of bear, a chalder of meal, 700 merks Scotch in money, with 50 merks for communion elements, and a glebe of about 5 acres of very good ground. The Earl of Errol is the present patron. The church was built in 1576; at least this date is above one of the doors. It is probable, however, that it had only been repaired that year, as there is still a font stone in the E. end. The manse was built in 1763, and new offices about 4 or 5 years ago.—A new school-house, with rooms for the master, was built in 1791. The schoolmaster's salary is 100 merks Scotch, and, including all perquisites and school fees, will not amount to above 11l. or 12l. a year.—The poor are supported by the weekly collections, and the interest of 130l. Sterling. Of this, 100 merks Scotch were mortified by a proprietor of Logie, about the beginning of the century, and 50 merks by Mr. Leslie, late minister of Crimond, about the year 1740. These two sums, by being lent out at interest, amounted, in 1748, to 700 merks Scotch; and, in 1782, with some small savings, to 170l. Sterling: A practical proof of the accumulation of money by compound interest †.

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Roads.

a small part of their estate (near a moss if possible) to be let in small crofts of 2 or 3 acres to day-labourers and artificers, and to grant them leases. By these means many would settle in the country, the best nursery of the human species, and it would always be easy to procure labourers and artificers, which is frequently not the case at present. This difficulty of procuring day-labourers, labouring servants, &c. prevents many improvements from being attempted. It would also be of consequence, that such crofts were very small, because if they were large, they would either take up too much of the possessor's time, or the necessary attention would not be paid to them.

* Mr. WILLIAM LAW, probably the first Presbyterian minister at Crimond after the Revolution, was deposed, soon after the beginning of the century, by the Synod of Aberdeen, for what they were pleased to call *heresy*, he having asserted in a Synod sermon, "That *virtue* was *more natural* to the human mind than vice."

† Since that period the capital has decreased. The poor are literally supported

ed

Roads.—The roads in this district are repaired by the statute labour, which, if properly performed, would have kept them in repair: But the work was always too superficially performed, because too much was attempted in one year. And, as the roads stood as much in need of repair as ever, in a few years they became very bad. This rendered people averse and awkward in performing the statute labour. Besides, about 10, 12, or 20 years ago, the then residing heritors frequently repaired their private roads by means of the statute labour; and overseers were often partial or negligent. More attention, however, has been paid to the public roads for some years past, and they are now considerably improved.

Lake, Hill, &c.—The Loch of Strathbeg is partly in the parish of Crimond, partly in that of Loanmay. It contains about 550 acres, and is above a mile in length from E. to W.; the breadth is unequal. The E. end, which is in Crimond, is nearly half a mile from the sea, the W. end somewhat farther*. At the E. end of the Loch of Strathbeg, in a very pleasant

ed by the poor. The heritors either do not reside, or do not attend public worship. A great many are dissenters, who contribute little or nothing to the support of the poor. For 10 or 12 years past, Mr. Irvine of Drum has caused 5 or 6 bolls of oat-meal, and sometimes more, yearly, and, at different times money, to be distributed among the poor of his estate: An example which deserves to be followed by all non-residing heritors, and those who do not attend public worship.

* At the beginning of the present century, this lake was of much smaller extent than it is now. It was confined to a small part of the E. end, and had a communication with the sea, so that vessels of small burthen could enter it. People born about the beginning of the century well remembered the first overflowing of the W. part of the Loch, though the particular year is not now known, but it must have been about 1720. Previous to that time there was a
hill

pleasant situation, there is a small hill, of a circular form, whose top is exactly half a Scotch acre in extent, called *the Castle-Hill*. It rises 38 feet above a small plain on the N. E. but is only 12 or 14 feet above the higher ground on the opposite side. The famous Gummie Earl of Buchan, had a seat here; but after his defeat at the battle of Inverury, by King Robert Bruce, this castle fell into ruins. By the blowing of the light sandy ground in the neighbourhood, which very frequently happens, it is now covered with a deep soil, and produces crops of grain and grass. Such is the instability of human affairs *. About a quarter of a mile S. of the Castle-hill, the walls of a chapel, surrounded by a burial place, are mostly entire †. Around this chapel formerly stood the burgh of Rattray. It is said to have had the same privileges as a royal burgh, except sending members to parliament. The burgage lands are of considerable extent ‡. This district

3 G 2

is

hill of sand, between the hill above mentioned and the sea, and still higher than it. A furious E. wind blew away this hill of sand in one night, which stopped the communication between the loch and the sea by forming a sand bar. The low lying ground to the W. was soon overflowed, and the extent of the loch much increased. An attempt has been made to drain this loch: the operations for draining it were begun in 1787, and are still continued, though hitherto unsuccessful. The proper method of draining it does not appear to be yet discovered.

* About 60 years ago, Mr. Arbuthnot, then of Broadland, caused dig up an eminence at the S. E. side of the Castle-hill, where he found a great number of stones, supposed to belong to the kitchen of the castle, as the workmen found very large hearth-stones covered with ashes.

† It is supposed to have been a private chapel for the use of the Earl's family. The length is 45 feet within the walls, the breadth 18 feet, the thickness of the walls 3 feet, and the height of the end walls, still above ground, 32 feet. In the E. end of the chapel are 3 arched windows; the largest, which is in the middle, is 11 feet high and 2 feet wide. The other 2 are each 7 feet high, and 2 wide. The walls are built of very small stones firmly cemented with lime.

‡ There are now only 2 feus, or rather 1 feu divided into 2. The oldest character

is called, in an old charter, *the Great Park* of Crimond. There are, however, very few trees in it at present; but it appears, from the mosses, that there have been large plantations formerly. Many oaks, still fresh, have been found in the mosses; but scarcely any other kind of wood. In these places, when the moss is exhausted, or nearly so, roots of very large oaks are to be seen, as close together as trees of their size could well be supposed to grow in a plantation. In the uppermost part of Crimond, the adjacent parts of Loanmay, and a part of Longside, which was disjoined from Crimond in the last century, there are several very extensive mosses contiguous to each other, which, if we may judge from those already exhausted, have been once covered with wood*.

Ale Houses.—There is only one licenced public house in the parish; but there are several persons, who, by getting
market

ter upon this feu, extant, was granted in 1627. In that year, in a burgh-court holden at Rattray, by the Honourable John Hay of Crimondmogate, William Dalgardno of Blackwater, and David Ravis of Strathstedlie, bailies of the burgh of Rattray, a jury of 13 honest men, citizens of the said burgh, find, that Magnus Smith, the father of William Smith, died possessed of 4 roods of land in the said burgh. Upon this, David Ravis, one of the said bailies, superior of the lands of Rattray, grants a charter on the said 4 roods in favour of William Smith.—The next charter is granted in 1675 by William Watson of Haddo, bailie of the burgh of Rattray, superior of the said lands, in favour of Isobel Watson, spouse of Alexander Bisset in Bilboe.—The latest charter is granted in 1711, by Charles Earl of Errol, superior of the lands of Rattray, in favour of the daughters of the said Alexander Bisset and Isobel Watson.

* In Fordoun's Chronicle, after mentioning the defeat of Cummine at Inverrury, it is narrated, "That Bruce pursued him to Turriff, and afterwards destroyed by fire his whole earldom of Buchan." The large plantations of trees were no doubt destroyed with the rest of the earldom; and this is the more probable, as marks of fire have been perceived on trees deep buried in the moss.

market sets from the excise officers, contrive to retail ale and spiritous liquors during a great part of the year; and as they pay no licence, and hardly any duty on ale, and have little convenience, they can afford to sell below the ordinary price in a decent house. Hence these private ale houses are too much frequented, and their effects may soon become pernicious. Drunkenness, however, is not a prevailing vice here. The severe season of 1782 was attended with many bad consequences; but it had one beneficial effect in this neighbourhood, that of almost putting a stop to this vice.

NUM.

NUMBER XXXIII.

PARISH OF LOCHALSH.

(County of Ross—Presbytery of Lochcarron—Synod of
Glenelg.)

By the Rev. Mr. ALEXANDER DOWNIE, Minister.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE general name of this parish, like those of most of the farms of which it consists, seems to be Danish. It is situated on the N. W. coast of Scotland. The figure of the inhabited part approaches nearest to a quadrangular peninsula, being inclosed by the sea on 3 of the sides. The Kyle, or narrow sea, which separates the adjacent island of Sky from the main land of Scotland, is its western boundary; the bays of Lochduich and Lochlong encompass it on the S.; and that range of high hills, which divides the east from the west coast of Scotland, bound it on the east. The inhabited part is computed to be 10 miles long, and 5 broad.

Surface, Soil, and Climate, &c.—The general appearance of the country, like that of all Highland parishes, is mountainous. The hills are neither rocky, nor covered with heath, as in the neighbouring countries to the N. On the declivity of the smaller hills, and in the intermediate hollows, the soil is rich, and commonly of the same quality with the ground which covers lime-stone rocks. On the top they are covered with thin moss. The whole produces excellent pasture, reckoned superior in quality to any in the neighbouring countries. The climate, as may be expected, from the attraction of the clouds by the high hills in the parish, and the still higher hills of Kintail and Sky, is exceedingly moist and rainy. The inhabitants, however, are healthy, and many live to a considerable age. Nervous fevers are the principal epidemical distempers to which they are subject.

Produce.—The produce of the country is oats, barley, potatoes and pease. But the attention of the farmer being principally occupied in rearing cattle, the raising of corn becomes a secondary consideration. The inequality of the surface renders cultivation difficult, and the wetness of the climate makes the return precarious. In the best seasons it does not produce corn sufficient for the inhabitants. They annually import oat-meal from Ireland, the Frith of Clyde, or Caithness, at from 15s. to 24s. per boll, of 8 stone Dutch weight. The quantity varies, according to the goodness of the harvest, or the severity of the spring. In a bad spring, the cattle often consume their corn after the provender has been exhausted.

Cattle.—The number of cattle in the parish, according to a very accurate survey lately taken, is as follows :

Milk

Milk cows,	-	994	Sheep,	-	1789
Calves,	-	567	Lambs,	-	686
Young cattle,	-	1554	Goats,	-	1011
Horses,	-	275			

The sheep and goats are kept solely for family use. By the produce of the black cattle, the farmer lives and pays his rent to the landlord. About 400 are annually sold to drovers from the south of Scotland, who come to purchase them, from April to November. The average price will be about three guineas.

Commerce and Cultivation.—A considerable quantity of butter and cheese is annually exported. The butter is esteemed of the best quality and highest flavour. Formerly, the farmer trusted for winter provender solely to pasture grass, on which no cattle were pastured from the 12th of August to the 12th of November. Having little straw, and no hay, many cattle, in severe winters, perished for want. They now begin to inclose their ground, and grow natural and artificial hay, by which means this loss is in a great measure obviated. By raising more hay, and keeping a lighter stock, cattle of greater value, secure from bad seasons, might be reared. A very extensive bank of coral and shell sand, to which all the tenants on the estate have free access, will greatly contribute to promote agriculture amongst them. Of late years it has been generally used; and experience so much convinces them of its utility, that it is now carried in small boats, bearing from 12 to 18 barrels, through Lochduich, 15 miles, and sometimes to a considerable distance afterwards by land carriage. Those who carry it by contract, demand 6d. per barrel for delivering it on the shore. By employing large flat-bottomed boats, the price of carriage might be much reduced, and the manure, found

found so much adapted for corn and grafs, more universally used.

Population, Manner of Living, &c.—Within these 40 years, the population is more than doubled.

The number, at present, is, of males,	-	-	640
_____ females,	-	-	694
In all,	-	-	1334
In Dr. Webster's report, the number is only	-	-	613
Increase,	-	-	721
The present number of families is	-	-	279

As there was a considerable emigration from this country to North America, in 1770, and a large drain of young men to recruit the army during the late war*, it is difficult to assign adequate causes for this rapid increase of population. It cannot be accounted for, from any change in the division of farms, most of which have been bounded by the same marches for upwards of a century, and still possessed by what may be called the *Aborigines* of the country, often descending, from father to son, in the same family, to the fourth generation. The cultivation of potatoes, introduced here about 45 years ago, (which, with various kinds of fish, now constitute the greatest part of the food of the people,) seems to have principally contributed to it. Their mode of farming, requiring little of their attention, during the summer and beginning of harvest, they are much employed in fishing of sythe, (a small species of the cole fish), herrings, and sometimes ling, cod and

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skate.

* Since writing the above, the proprietor, who is now raising a regiment, raised here upwards of 40 volunteers in 2 days.

skate. The sythe are eat fresh; the herrings are pickled, to be eat with the potatoes during the harvest, winter, and spring. Though 63 boats be employed in this manner, there are no fish exported from the parish. Communicating the small-pox by inoculation, now become universal over this coast, and practised with success, has also very much contributed to preserve the lives of the people †. The emancipation of the lower classes, too, from the remains of feudal oppression, and their circumstances greatly improving, under the fostering care of a liberal landlord, enables them to marry earlier in life, and to provide with more ease for a rising family.

Church, Poor, Schools, &c.—The church was built in 1641. It was repaired and slated in 1766, and lately furnished with commodious seats. The living, including the glebe, is worth 65l. per annum. The patronage is vested in the Crown. The sole heritor, Mr. M'Kenzie of Seaforth, does not reside in the parish. All the people come to the Established Church, excepting 62 Roman Catholics, who attend a Popish meeting-house in the neighbouring parish of Kintail.—The number of poor at present on the parish roll is 35. The only fund for their support, arising from collections at the church door, does not exceed 7l. per annum, which is distributed by the kirk-session according to their necessities. The parochial school is situated near the church. The salary is 200 merks Scotch. Last year, the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge restored one of their schools to a detached district of the parish, with a salary of 15l. Sterling.

Rents,

† About 40 years ago, when inoculation was not practised here, this virulent distemper, visiting them in the natural way, gave cause to many unhappy parents, to bewail the loss of a whole family of children.

Rents, Fuel, &c.—The valued rent of the parish is not exactly known. The real rent is nearly 800l. Sterling, besides what arises from a considerable quantity of kelp annually exported. This estate has remained in the same family for upwards of 4 centuries.—The only fuel used is peats, which, in wet seasons, in this rainy climate, are expensive and precarious. Necessity has sometimes obliged them to purchase coals, at the extravagant rate of 19s. per ton. It is to be hoped the justice of the British legislature will not suffer a country, where firing must always constitute one of the most essential comforts of life, to groan any longer under a partial and iniquitous tax on that necessary article*.—The Gaelic is the only language, in which public instruction is conveyed to the people; though, from the introduction of Society schools, and a stronger desire in the people to have their children educated, most of them are now taught to read and write.

Wild Animals.—Red deer, mountain hares, and tarmagan, frequent the higher hills. In the lower, may be found roes, foxes, black-cocks, grouse, plovers, partridges, eagles, and a variety of hawks. The migratory birds are the wood-cock, lapwing, cuckoo, land rail, swallow, and mountain finch, or snow-flake. The sea coast abounds with a variety of water fowl.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The parish derives its principal advantage from its local situation on the sea coast, so contiguous to the bays of Lochduich, Lochcarron, Kishorn, and Lochorn, some one of which, and generally all of them, shoals of herrings never fail to visit between the end of June, and the beginning of November. From benefiting by this advantage, they are, however, in a great measure, prevented,

3 H 2

by

* Since this was written, the coal tax has been happily abolished.

by the present existing laws regarding *salt*. If this obstacle were removed, by allowing the country people salt at the same duty as the fish curers have it, for curing fish for home consumption, their condition would be greatly improved. They would then not only have it in their power, to cure a sufficient quantity for the use of their families, at a smaller expence, but likewise find profitable employment in curing herrings for the Irish markets. It is now not at all uncommon to see them, after catching a quantity of fish, in proportion to their small stock of salt, return from a lake where boat loads might be taken. The country people, from the same cause, not two years ago, sold good herrings in Loch-duich to the masters of buffes, at from 1s. to 2s. per barrel. The people being, from their infancy, principally employed in attending cattle, are generally disposed to be idle, and, though able-bodied, continue at hard work with reluctance. The women particularly, ignorant of the arts of domestic industry, contribute little to the support of their families. Habits of industry, however, begin to be acquired. The introduction of some species of manufacture would greatly meliorate their condition, without interfering much with their principal employment of herding. The manufacture of coarse stockings seems to be the best adapted for the local situation of the country. There is a great quantity of wool raised on sheep farms in the neighbourhood, which might be spun during the winter, a season generally spent in idleness, and knitted while they sit in the meadows tending their herds. If the population continues to increase, in the same proportion as it has done for the last 40 years, unless some employment be found for the people, the country will soon be unable to support them, and they will be reluctantly compelled to seek, in other countries, that encouragement and protection which
their

their own native land refuses. It is unnecessary to remark the disadvantage to the state, of losing so many of its hardiest subjects, remarkable for their simplicity of manners and obedience to the laws at home, and ready and successful in defending its liberties abroad. The time may perhaps not be far distant, when, enervated by luxury, and sunk in effeminacy, the more refined inhabitants of the South will yield to the hardier sons of the North, the seat of empire and the emporium of trade, for which their natural resources, their personal strength and vigour of mind, and perhaps local advantages, so much qualify them.

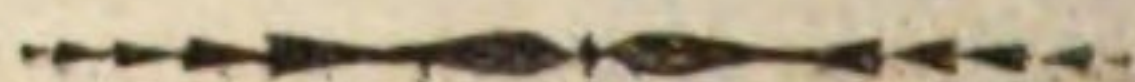
NUM.

NUMBER XXXIV.

PARISH OF AUCHINLECK.

(County and Presbytery of Ayr—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

*Drawn up from the Communications of the late Rev. Mr. JOHN
DUN, Minister of that Parish*.*



Name, and Extent.

AUCHINLECK is a Celtic compound, signifying *the Field of Rock*, an appellation indicative of its situation, the houses at the extremities being founded on rock, and rocks appearing in most places in the parish, chiefly of the species called *Free-stone*. The length of this district is about 18, and the breadth, on an average, 2 English miles.

Soil and Produce.—Except upon the rocks, and the banks of the streams, which are warm rich land, the soil is a shallow,
poor

* Mr. Dun had proposed to draw up a fuller and more complete account, but unfortunately died before he could carry his intentions into execution.

poor clay, upon a cold till bottom. Glenmore, in the upper part of the parish, extending 8 miles in length, is covered with heath. The clay soil prevents the practice of turnip crops, and winter feeding for cattle; and has occasioned several arable farms to be let for grazing. No wheat is now sown, except by the Earl of Dumfries; oats, big, or bear, barley, clover, and rye-grass, are much cultivated, but pease do not thrive well. Lime is used as a manure on all the farms.

Climate, Mineral Waters, Fish, &c.—The ridges of hills to the N. and S. of this parish, attracting the clouds coming from the Atlantic, prevent so much rain falling here as in other neighbouring parishes. There are two mineral wells, the one a chalybeate, and the other of a purgative quality. Salmon come up the waters of Ayr and Lugar. Trouts, which formerly used to abound in the Lugar, are now become scarce, owing to their being caught with nets, and salted like herrings. Pike come into the Lugar from New Cumnock Lochs.

Minerals.—On the estate of Auchinleck, there is an excellent coal, wrought from time immemorial. For 13 or 14 miles above the church, coal is to be found almost every where, and is wrought wherever any demand prevails. Above the coal, on the rocky banks of the Lugar, there is a beautiful bluish free stone, fine in the grain, which cuts well; and at Bell's Park, there is a lead mine, which has never been wrought, and is said by a skilful person to look rather like a silver mine. On the lands of Wallace-town there is a quarry of black fire-proof stone, carried far and near for building ovens.

STATISTICAL

STATISTICAL TABLE of the PARISH of AUCHINLECK.

Number of souls in 1755, -	587	Hawkers, -	-	-	2
in the landward part		Shoemakers, -	-	-	8
of the parish, in 1791, -	380	Fiddler, -	-	-	1
in the village, do. 340		Weavers, -	-	-	15
Total, —	775	Stocking-weaver, -	-	-	1
Decrease since 1755, 112		Millers, -	-	-	3
Burgher Seceders, -	35	Smiths, -	-	-	4
Antiburgher ditto, -	20	Coopers, -	-	-	2
Shopkeepers, -	5	Excise officer, -	-	-	1
Baker, -	1	Horses, -	-	-	200
Masons, -	6	Carts, -	-	-	80
		Sheep, -	-	-	between 8000 and 9000

MARRIAGES. BAPTISMS*. BURIALS.

In 1784, -	11	19	15
1785, -	9	21	23
1786, -	12	16	19
1787, -	14	17	11
1788, -	10	22	11
1789, -	8	22	8
1790, -	7	19	13
	71	136	100

Markets, Roads, Village, &c.—On the last Tuesday of August there is a well frequented fair for the sale of lambs &c. About 1770, the roads were almost impassable in winter; but now three turnpike roads pass through the parish. The village of Auchinleck has for these two or three years past been on the decline, and several houses are now empty, owing, in some measure, to the Muirkirk Iron and Coal Tar Works, but more especially to the Cotton mill at Catrine, which have attracted inhabitants from this parish.

Ecclesiastical

* As the Seceders do not register the births of their children, these are not included in the above statement.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church of Auchinleck, placed in a beautiful situation, and founded on a rock, was repaired and enlarged in 1754. The stipend, including communion elements, is no more than 50 l. 3 s. 11½ d. Sterling in money, two chalders of meal, and one of bear, the latter common heap measure, or 15 pecks to the bushel; being the same that was settled by decret in 1649, since which period no augmentation has taken place, though all the other parishes in the neighbourhood have had their stipends increased. The manse, one of the most commodious neat small houses to be met with, was built in 1756. The glebe contains 6 acres. JAMES BOSWELL, Esq. of Auchinleck, a well known literary character, is patron and principal heritor.

Rent, Poor's Fund, &c.—The valued rent of the parish is 3800 l. Scotch, divided among 13 heritors, of whom 5 usually reside in the parish.—The capital of the poor's fund, which in 1752 amounted to 50 l. is now augmented to 100 l. lent out at the annual interest of 4 and 5 per cent. The collections, which, from 1740 to 1751 †, were, at an average, 6 l. 6 s. yearly, have for 20 years preceding 1791, amounted to 18 l. per annum. The kirk-session annually distributes 6 l. arising from the money received for the hire of the mort-cloths, for the dues payable on marriages and baptisms, and the interest of the before-mentioned capital of 100 l*. The

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two

* For 30 years past, the session has never distributed money to the poor, except in the way of loan, in order that if any of them get a legacy, or become able to refund, action may lie against them. But an assignation to their moveables is never taken, because in the case of sickness, the parochial funds would thereby be loaded with an enormous expence for an attendant.

† Since 1752, the wages of male servants have advanced from 4 l. to 7 l., 8 l., and 9 l.; of female servants, from 1 l. 13 s. and 4 d. to 5 l. per annum; of labourers, from 8 d. to 1 s.; of masons, from 1 s. to 2 s. and 2 s. 6 d. a-day. The price of eggs has risen from 13 for 1 d. to 4 d. per dozen; mutton from 2 d. to 4½ d. per lib.; hens, from 4 d. to 1 s.;—beef sells at 5 d. per lib. of 24 avoirdupois ounces; veal at 4½ d.; and lamb at 3 d. per lib.

two principal heritors, the Earl of Dumfries and Mr. Boswell of Auchinleck, have never refused the late incumbent money for the relief of the poor when necessary.

Antiquities and Remarkable Places, &c.—In an angle, formed by the Lugar and the Dupol burn, there are the remains of the old Castle of Auchinleck, of whose age there is not the smallest account to be found. Near this castle there are three remarkably straight and tall fir trees, planted in the last century by one of the Boswells of Auchinleck, who brought the plants in his boot from Dalziel near Hamilton. Next the castle, lies the Place of Auchinleck, in a romantically pleasant situation; and about half a mile from thence, the House of Auchinleck, built by the late worthy LORD AUCHINLECK. Ayr's Moss, in this parish, is famous for a defeat of a party of the Covenanters in Charles II's time. On a green know therein, is a tomb-stone to the memory of Mr. Richard Cameron, preacher of the gospel, and seven others, killed in the engagement. At the head of this moss, which extends 5 miles in length, and 1 in breadth, there are the remains of an iron forge, erected at a great expence by a Lord Cathcart, but suddenly given up, even when bar iron was manufactured there.

NUMBER XXXV.

PARISH OF ABERNETHY.

(County and Presbytery of Perth—Synod of Perth and Stirling.)

By the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM DUNCAN, Minister,

Origin of the Name.

THE town of Abernethy, from which the parish takes its name, is called, in the Pictish Chronicle (published by INNES, and afterwards by PINKERTON) "*Aburnethiye*," or "*Apurnethiye*;" the *b* and *p* being indiscriminately used in the Gaelic language. The name, which Highlanders give to Abernethy, is *Obair* or *Abair Neachtain*, that is, *the work of Nechtan*. This NETHAN, or NECTAN the I. began his reign over the Picts, A. C. 456, and reigned 25 years. He is said to have founded the church of Abernethy*, and to have dedicated that town, and an adjoining district of land, to God and St. Bridget.

3 I 2

Form,

* Other Kings might afterwards confirm and add to the foundation: from which, as was often the case, they might be stiled Founders.

Form, Extent, Surface, and Climate.—This parish is of an irregular figure. It extends from E. to W. 4 miles, and from N. to S., in some places, about 5. The surface is uneven; a considerable part of it is hilly, and forms a part of that ridge of hills, called *the Ochills*. The low ground, bounded by the rivers *Tay* and *Earn* on the N. and the hills on the S. are nearly an oblong square; in length from E. to W. about 4 English miles, and in breadth from N. to S. about $1\frac{1}{2}$. There is a bank of a gentle rise, that runs diagonally through this square. It begins in a point on the *Tay* at the north-eastern extremity of the parish, and extends nearly in a line to the foot of the hills, not far from the western extremity. All below this bank, to the banks of the *Tay* and the *Earn*, which may be about two thirds of the low ground, is flat, and the soil artificial. As the air is salubrious, there is no disease peculiar to this parish. The prejudices against inoculation are wearing off. No part of the country can afford better diversion to the sportsman for hares, partridges, foxes, &c.

Soil.—About 25 feet below the surface of this flat ground, and 4 feet below the highest spring tide mark in the rivers *Tay* and *Earn*, there is uniformly a stratum of moss, from 1 to 3 feet thick. This moss is a composition of the wood and leaves of some trees, such as oak, alder, hazel, birch, &c. The soil above this bed of moss is composed of strata of clay and sand, of different thickness, and of different colours and qualities. The sand for the most part is very small, and in colour brown and white; the clay orange and blue; and in some places the one, and in other places the other is at the surface. The soil of this flat then, upon that account, is various. The sand, indeed, even in the composition of the soil, and its extent upon the surface, bears but a small proportion

to that of the clay. There are fields of blue clay, fields of orange clay, and fields of light sand, all on the same farm; and even in the same fields part is sometimes clay, and part sand, and often a mixture of both. The blue clay is thought to be richer than the orange, and more easily cultivated. Both are equally productive by proper management. The sand where there is little or no clay is very easily managed, though not so productive as the clays. But where there is a proper mixture of clay and sand, which is often the case, it is easily managed, and usually more productive than any of the other. The Earn, by breaking down the opposing banks in its serpentine turning, has formed beautiful links or haughs, alternately, on each side of its stream. The high spring tides, which overflow these haughs, carry back, and leave on their surface, the finest particles of the clay washed down by the river. This clay mixing with the rushes, and rich grasses that grow and rot on these haughs, has formed a soil of amazing fertility. Some of these haughs are now secured from being overflowed by embankments. The soil of the bank, that runs diagonally through the plain, is vegetable mould, or loam with a mixture of sand; in some parts a mixture of till or natural clay. Above the bank, to the foot of the hills, there are large fields of deep loam, some small fields of natural clay, but, in general, the soil is a light loam, with a mixture of sand or till, and a gravelly bottom. This gravelly bottom conveys the water from the hills, which, when not carried off by proper drains, is very hurtful. The soil in general, among the hills, where they are arable, is a light vegetable mould, with some banks inclining to till or natural clay.

Agriculture and Produce.—Little or no improvements in agriculture

agriculture were made in this parish before the year 1782*. From that period, farmers from different parts of the country, but especially from the Carse of Gowrie, have settled in the parish, and now mostly possess all the lower part of it. A different mode of culture is introduced; a regular rotation of crops is established. Fallow, wheat, green crop, (pease beans, sometimes drilled turnip and potatoes), barley, grass, and oats, is the general practice. Fallow is prepared by 5 plowings; 1 in winter and 4 in summer, dunged and limed according to the quality of the soil. The wheat is sown from the middle of September to the end of October, and the return is from 10 to 15 bolls an acre. Pease and beans are sown as early in March as the season will permit; the ground is prepared by 1 plowing in the spring; sometimes by 1 plowing in the winter and another in the spring. The returns however are precarious; from 2 to 12 bolls an acre.—Barley is sown in May; the ground is prepared as fine as garden mould, by 1 plowing in autumn and 2 or more in spring; 20 lib. weight avordupois of red clover seed, if the grass is intended for green feeding, (and, if intended for hay, the addition

* Some particular fields, and even farms, both in the hills and low ground had been limed, but by continual cropping, and unskilful management, the light land had been run almost to a *caput mortuum*, and the clay reduced to a state worse than that of nature. The farms in general, both in the hills and low ground, were divided into *infield* and *outfield*. In the hills, barley and oats alternately, with sometimes a few pease, was the mode of cropping on the infield; 3 years oats, and 3, 4, and sometimes 5 years in natural grass, was the mode of managing the outfield. The dung made through the year was laid on as a preparation for bear. The sheep and cattle, during summer, folded at night on that part of the outfield pasture that was intended for oats next year, sometimes enriched it sufficiently for 3 succeeding crops. The culture of the low ground differed little from that of the hill, only a few more pease and beans were sown, and here and there a few acres of fallow, which was followed by wheat, but little or no sown grass. No regular rotation of crops.

dition of 1 bushel of rye-grass seed), is sown in each acre along with the barley. The return is from 5 to 10 bolls an acre. Grass is partly cut green for summer food to the work horses and milk cows, and sometimes for a few young cattle in the straw yard; also a little for pasture to give the cows an airing. The rest of it, which will commonly be about the half, is made into hay; which the farmer uses for his own horses, or occasionally sells. The quantity of hay upon an acre will be from 200 to 400 stones, 22 lib. avoirdupois to the stone. The first crops were more luxuriant; about 500 stones of excellent hay have been produced, at an average, over a large field. Some of the stems of clover, in the swath after the mower, measured in length 4 feet. From the loss of milk cows, and the danger well known in pasturing red clover by horned cattle, some of the farmers are now laying down part of their land with white clover, rye, and rib grass for pasture. Oats are sown in March and the beginning of April; the ground is prepared by 1 plowing; the returns from 8 to 12 bolls an acre. One man and a pair of horses plow in the low ground. The ploughs are of different kinds, some with iron heads, some with crooked socks, chains below the beam, &c.; but all with cast iron mouldboards.—The harrows are different; some coupled one way, some another, some drawn by a pair of horses, some by a single horse. The rollers used are of different constructions and different weights, for the purposes of breaking clods, smoothing the surface for the smaller seeds, and condensing the lighter soils. There are 4 threshing machines which are found to answer well.—Harvest begins in the month of September, sometimes later even in the low ground, and always in the hills. Some of the farmers that have settled here from other parts of the country, owing possibly to the smallness of their stock, the exhausted state of the ground at their entry,

entry, the great rise of rent, and the improvement of their farms, have for some time past had a struggle to fulfil their engagements; but now their farms begin to answer their own expectations, and far to exceed the expectations of those among whom they have settled. Nor have the old tenants, with listless apathy, seen the exertions and improvements of those who have settled among them; they have not only copied, but even tried to excel them in improvement. Fallow, wheat, and sown grass have been introduced among the hill farms. Lime is now laid on old ley, as well as fallow, with judgment and success. The crops of wheat and sown grass are often considerable, and of good quality. This new mode of farming has induced many of them to give up keeping sheep. Some of the hill farms are very extensive. Great part of what is called *outfield* is steep, and of difficult access, lying also at a distance from their houses; *that ground* they are with great judgment laying out for pasture in parks from about 4 to 20 acres. The small feuers in the town of Abernethy, who may have 1, 2, or 3 acres, and not lying all together, though they cannot conveniently get it fallowed, are laying on lime, sowing grass, and drilling beans. Each farmer raises as much flax as is sufficient for his own family; little is raised for sale.

Inclosures, Orchards, &c.—Some farms in the low ground are inclosed, and subdivided by ditches and thorn hedges. The farmers, not thinking the ground adapted to pasture, say the hedges are hurtful, by stopping the free circulation of air, and hoarding a great number of sparrows, and other birds, that destroy the grain. None of the hedges are in a thriving condition (except those on the estate of *Craigpettie*), which is chiefly owing to the little care taken of them. One farm at the foot of the hills, containing about 88 acres, fit
both

both for grain and pasture, Mr. William Sommerville (tho' having only a lease of 30 years) has sufficiently inclosed and subdivided by stone dikes and thorn hedges at his own expence. Fruit trees thrive well in the low ground, and their fruit is not thought inferior to any in the country.—There are 4 orchards in the parish: Ash, elm, plane trees, &c. wherever they have been planted, grow to a good size, and the wood is of the best quality. The N. side of the hill is particularly adapted for planting. Scotch, and other firs, if planted, would turn out to the advantage of the proprietors, and tend to beautify the country. A part of these hills, planted about 20 or 30 years ago, are in a thriving condition.

Cattle, Commerce, Wages, &c.—Both cattle and horses are bred in this parish, of a good size and considerable value: Some of the farmers pay a particular attention to this pleasing and profitable object. There are only 3 flocks of sheep. About 30 years ago, almost every farmer had a flock. At that time there was little wheat sown, and no grafs. From experience, it is found, that the advantages arising from wheat and grafs, and their being able to breed double the number of cattle bred formerly, far overbalances the profit derived from keeping sheep. Those who now do so, have an extensive range of hilly ground; a considerable part of which is covered with heath. Considerable quantities of wheat and barley are sold and carried to Perth, or exported at Newburgh shore. Small quantities of oats and pease are purchased by the farmers in Fife for seed. The ancient servitudes, so oppressive and harrassing to the farmer, are almost entirely abolished. Men servants get from 6l. to 10l. Sterling a-year; women servants from 2l. 10s. to 3l. Men servants during harvest (for about a month) receive from 1l. 5s.

to 11. 10s. ; women from 18s. to 11. 1s. * Masons wages are 1s. 8d. per day ; wrights, 1s. 3d. ; tailors, 8d. ; a thatcher gets 1s. 6d. a-day, a labourer 1s., and a thresher 8d. with their victuals, or 7d. per boll. The prices of provisions are nearly the same as in Perth ; but there are rather too many ale-houses in the parish, there being no fewer than 11, when 3 or 4 might suffice.

Rivers, Fish, Island, Mills, &c.—The Tay, which washes part of the northern boundary, is navigable ; it affords many salmon and sea-trout. The proprietor of Carpow has fishings upon it, which yield him 100l. per annum. In the middle of this river, opposite to Mugdrum, (which is in the parish of Newburgh), is an island (called *Mugdrum Island*) belonging to this parish. It is nearly 1 English mile in length ; its breadth varies, but its greatest is 198 yards 1 foot. It measures 31 acres, of which 21 are embanked under cultivation, and produce luxuriant crops ; the remaining part is esteemed valuable as a salt marsh for pasture. There is a house upon it, in which the tenant resides with his family ; it rents about 68l. Sterling. Mr. Hay of Leys, the proprietor, has fishings in the river that rent at about 200l. yearly.—The Earn, which bounds the northern part of the parish, (till it falls into the Tay, a little below the mansion-house of Carpow), is navigable for several miles, which has been of late years the source

* About 6 years ago, the best ploughman could have been hired at 4l. or 4l. 10s. Sterling, and women at 2l. for the year. Harvest-men at 1l. and women at 15s. Farmers loudly complain of the sudden and great rise of wages. Cottages are not encouraged ; they are even demolished. By this impolitic measure many of the lower class of people are forced into towns, and their children trained to other occupations. Thus the country is deprived of the best nursery for able and healthy servants, servants trained from their infancy to sobriety and industry, to skill and practice in the peculiar labours of agriculture.

source of much agricultural improvement, as most of the farmers have their lime brought by water, either from the N. of England, or the Earl of Elgin's lime kilns on the coast of Fife. It produces salmon and trout as the Tay. The salmon are of an excellent quality, sell at 6d. and 7d. per lib. in the spring, and 4d. during summer. Few indeed are sold in the neighbourhood. They are chiefly sent to Perth, and from thence to the English market. Fishing upon the Tay begins about the middle of April; upon the Earn, when not frozen, about the beginning of February; it is given over in both on the 15th of August. There are two passage boats on the Earn: one at *Cary*, which is seldom employed; another at *Ferryfield*, upon the estate of *Carpow*: this place being near the junction of the Earn and the Tay, the boat belonging to it is often employed, in carrying passengers over the Tay to the Carse of Gowrie. There are 20 boats from the parish usually employed in fishing during the season; each boat having 2 men, who are generally tradesmen or labourers in the neighbourhood: they are allowed, for wages, 6s. 6d. a-week, with what trout they catch. The *Farg*, a rivulet, about an English mile and a half W. from Abernethy, abounds with small trout. Upon it there are one oil mill, with 2 corn and 2 lint ditto belonging to this parish.—There is another small rivulet, called *the Ballo Burn*, that runs by Abernethy on the W. and supplies the inhabitants with water; on it also there is a corn mill.

Population.—The population has decreased somewhat within these 40 years.

The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, was	-	1490
By an accurate list taken in the months of October		
and November 1792, the number was only	-	1415

Decrease,	-	75
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Of these there were, Males. Females.		Members of the Estab. Church, 628
Under 10 years of age, 138	141	Antiburgher Seceders, - 774
Between 10 and 20, 158	113	Burgher ditto, - - 4
— 20 and 50, 242	337	Relief ditto, - - - 1
— 50 and 70, 118	118	Episcopalians, - - - 4
Aged 70 and upwards*, 28	22	Independents, - - - 4
	684	1415
	731	

LIST OF BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, AND BURIALS, FOR 9 YEARS.

	Baptisms.		Marriages.	Burials.
	Males.	Females.		
1784	22	5	9	44
1785	14	16	16	40
1786	19	22	11	23
1787	13	14	11	37
1788	19	20	15	40
1789	27	18	13	40
1790	15	19	8	28
1791	16	14	18	61
1792	17	24	11	34
	162	152	112	347†
Annual average, 18		16 $\frac{8}{9}$	12 $\frac{4}{9}$	38 $\frac{2}{9}$

Manufactures.—There are in the parish 82 male weavers and 3 female ones. Many of them excell in working all kinds of household cloth : but the greatest number have been employed, for several years past, in working what is called *Silesia linen*, to the Perth merchants. The yarn for these webs

* There are none now living in the parish, who have attained to the age of 90, but 2 or 3 are very near it. One man died lately at the age of 96.

† Though it appears, from this list of burials, which is extracted from the parish register, there have been for 9 years past 347, yet this does not ascertain exactly the deaths that took place during that time, as several persons from other parishes have been buried here, and a few from this in other places.

webs they get warp'd and ready to put into the loom, and are allowed so much per yard for weaving. Some time ago their profits were great, but they now find it difficult to procure employment; and, when employed, can earn but a scanty subsistence. Two or three buy yarn, which they manufacture and sell where they can find the best market. A small quantity of diaper and dornick is made here; but these only for the use of private families.

Rents and Proprietors.—The valued rent is 8884l. 15s. 1d. Scotch: The real rent about 4000l. Sterling. Farms let at from 10s. to 2l. per acre: Burgh acres from 1l. 10s. to 4l. There are 90 proprietors of land. Excepting three they are all feuers; some of them hold of the Earl of Mansfield; almost all in the town of Abernethy hold of Lord Douglas.—There are 2 commons, 1 belonging to the burghesses of Abernethy, lying a little above the town, on which the inhabitants pasture their cows and horses in summer, and from which they are furnished with *divots*, turf, &c. The other lying E. from the hills of Balgony and Abernethy, belongs to the adjoining heritors and feuers. A division of this common is intended.

Ecclesiastical State, &c.—The church is remarkable for nothing but its antiquity. There are no records, nor so much as a tradition when it was built †. The value of the living, exclusive

† Here was an Episcopal see, and there were 3 elections of bishops when there was only 1 bishop in Scotland, or at least in the kingdom of the Picts.—When KENNETH the III. King of Scots, had entirely subdued the Picts, he translated the Episcopal see to St. Andrew's. After this the Church of Abernethy became a Collegiate Church, possessed by the Culdees. While they held it, there was an *University* here for the education of youth, as appears from the priory book of St. Andrew's.—In the year 1273, (by which time the Culdees were

exclusive of the glebe and manse, is 59l. 15s. 7¹/₂d. Communion elements, 5l. 11s. 1⁴/₁₁; grafs, 1l. 13s. 4d.; 22 bolls 3 firlots and 2 pecks of bear; 18 bolls of oat-meal; 1 boll 3 firlots and 2 pecks of wheat. The manse was built in the year 1774; both it and the offices are in good repair. There are 4 acres of a glebe. The Earl of Mansfield is patron. The Antiburghers have a meeting-house here. Their minister is a very prudent sensible man, quiet, and conscientious in the discharge of his duty. The spirit of secession has for some time past been on the decline. The members of the establishment and the Antiburghers live in the most friendly habits.

Schools and Poor.—There are 2 schools in the parish, at an average about 50 scholars at each during the winter. The parochial schoolmaster has generally that number throughout the year. His salary, and perquisites as session-clerk, amounts to about 9l. 18s. He has likewise the interest of 190l. and 1l. 13s. 4d. from a mortification for teaching poor scholars. The fees for teaching are very low. He has a good house, but no garden. His income will not exceed 30l.—The poor's funds are made up of the money collected on Sundays, and the rent of 11 acres of land, called *Kirk land*, amounting annually to about 25l. Sterling. The poor on these funds are from 13

to
were much discouraged), it was turned into a priory of regular canons of St. Augustine, who were brought, it is said, from the abbey of Inchaffray.—FORBES, in his *Treatise on Tythes*, says, that “the Collegiate Church was founded by the Earl of Angus;” probably he meant ARCHIBALD Earl of Angus Lord of Abernethy, who gave the town a Charter of Privileges, August 23. 1476. The Earl might be a benefactor to the Collegiate Church, or restore it to a better state than it had been in for some time before, and, on that account, might be said to have founded it. To the above charter, a venerable man, Sir JOHN FRIZZLE, (that is FRAZER), Provost of the Collegiate Church of Abernethy, was one of the witnesses. This charter was renewed by WILLIAM Earl of Angus, at Holyroodhouse, on the 16th of November 1628. By this charter the government of Abernethy is vested in 2 bailies and 15 counsellors.

to 18, and get from 1s. to 5s. a-month. The Antiburgher kirk-session distributes 20l. Sterling annually to the poor in this parish, besides contributing to the relief of others that attend their meeting-house from neighbouring parishes. There are no begging poor in the parish, yet no place is more pestered with vagrants and poor from other quarters.

Roads and Bridges.—There are 2 public roads; that which leads to Fife by Newburgh is in tolerable repair; the other, which is through the glen of Abernethy (and by which great quantities of coal and lime are brought from Fife to Strathearn) is very bad; that which strikes off the glen to Auchtermuchty, is in winter almost impassable. The statute labour, and composition-money allowed, are totally inadequate to keep these roads in repair. There are 2 bridges over the Farg; the one at Gowly, which is old and ruinous, the other below *Potty Mill*, which is too narrow for carriages, and lies at some distance from the public road. A new bridge over this water, near Aberargie, would be a desirable object, as after heavy rains it swells to such a height, and is so rapid, that it is both difficult and dangerous to cross it.

Antiquities.—In the church-yard stands a tower of an extraordinary construction. It consists of 64 courses of hewn stone, laid circularly and regularly, is in height 74 feet, in circumference 48 feet. It is difficult to assign this to any but the Picts, as it stands in the capital of their dominions. There is but one other tower of a similar structure in Scotland, viz. at Brechin. The use of these towers, according to the latest and most probable conjectures, was not only for the confinement of those who were doing penance, but also for calling people to public worship by the sound of a horn or trumpet, before the introduction of bells. S. W. from the town there is a hill, called *Castle-law*. Tradition says there
was

was a fort upon the top of it ; it probably served for one of those watch towers on which the Picts used to kindle fires, on sudden invasions, insurrections, or the approach of the enemy ; these signals were communicated from tower to tower, till the whole country was alarmed and flew to arms. These fires were attended with the blowing of horns, which was the signal for war. From this hill there is a most beautiful and extensive prospect. About a mile and a half E. from Abernethy, a little below the mansion-house of Carpow, stood the ancient castle which belonged to the Lords of Abernethy* ; part of its foundation may still be seen. In the S. W. corner of this parish, among the hills, stands *Balvaird Castle*, which belonged to the MURRAYS of Balvaird, in the reign of ROBERT the 11d. It is now the property of the Earl of MANSFIELD, the lineal descendent of that ancient house.

NUM-

* One of the predecessors of the Earl of ANGUS married the heiress of ABERNETHY, and by her got this lordship, which is now vested in the person of Lord DOUGLAS, who annually receives the fees of many neighbouring estates, as well as of the town of Abernethy.

N U M B E R XXXVI.

PARISH OF GLENBERVIE.

(County of Kincardine—Presbytery of Fordoun—Synod of
Angus and Mearns.)

By the Rev. Mr. ALEXANDE THOM, Minister.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THIS parish affords few materials for statistical investigation. It probably takes its name from its low situation, and vicinity to the water of Bervie, along the E. side of which it extends for nearly 3 miles. From N. to S. it is $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, and 5 miles in breadth from E. to W., containing about 10,990 Scotch, or 13,965 English acres.

Soil, Produce, Cultivation, and Climate, &c.—The soil, in the upper and northern part of the parish, is generally a wet bluish clay, and, in the lower, a light loam. The principal crops are oats, bear, pease, potatoes, clover and rye-grass. The crops are, in general, more than sufficient for the support

of the inhabitants *. The cultivation of turnips likewise engages the attention of the farmer now; and he always finds them a profitable crop, if properly managed. For the knowledge, however, of this, and indeed of improvements in general, this county and neighbourhood are principally, if not altogether, indebted to Mr. BARCLAY of Urie, whose exertions in agriculture have been very great, and attended with success. The climate here is rather cold than otherwise, but healthy; and the harvest is early or late according to the season, the nature of the soil, and the situation of the ground. There are 53 ploughs in the parish.

Population.—The number of inhabitants in this parish has increased above one fourth, within these 40 years, as will appear from the following

POPULATION TABLE of the Parish of GLENBERVIE.

No. of males, - - -	750	Under 10 years of age, -	277
----- females, - - -	557	Between 10 and 20, -	244
Total, - - -	1307	----- 20 — 30, -	228
No. of souls in 1755, as returned to Dr. Webster, -	958	----- 30 and 40, -	193
		----- 40 — 50, -	115
		----- 50 — 60, -	92
Increase, - - -	349	----- 60 — 70, -	100
		----- 70 — 80, -	46
No. of Scotch Episcopalians, -	200	----- 80 — 90, -	9
----- Seceders, - - -	1	----- 90 — 100, -	3
----- Roman Catholics, -	1		
			1307
			Average

* In 1782, however, which was a very remarkable year here, the crop was very deficient, and the poor reduced to great distress. The ground did not produce so much grain as would have maintained the inhabitants 6 months. In that and the following year, the kirk-session were obliged to apply nearly 140l. Sterling of their funds, in purchasing white pease and barley, in order to preserve the poor from suffering by want, and to relieve the necessities of other inhabitants.

Average of births for the last 5	No. of square wrights,	-	8
years*, - - - 29	tailors, - - -	-	15
Ditto of marriages, - - - 10	weavers, - - -	-	23
Ditto burials, - - - 26	smiths, - - -	-	5
No. of proprietors, - - - † 7	shoemakers, - - -	-	17
farmers, - - - † 33	flax-dressers, - - -	-	8
cottagers, or subtenants, 160	coopers, - - -	-	4
macons, - - - 4	wheel-wrights, - - -	§	3

Rents and Leases.—The valued rent is 3,336l. Scotch; the real or present rent about 1000l. Sterling, which could be nearly doubled, were the lands to be let immediately. But as many of the leases are of an old date, the rents at present paid are low, and the industrious judicious tenant is in a thriving state. The tenants, especially on the lands belonging to Lord Monboddo, are in this agreeable situation. They hold their farms on easy, and, perhaps, peculiar terms; and, from this circumstance, and the countenance of his Lordship, they have the greatest encouragement to industry. Their leases are, probably, of an uncommon nature; being, *a life, 19 years, and a life*: The possessor, during the 19 years, names the life with which the lease ends.

3 L 2

Church;

* No certain conclusion, as to the increase or decrease of the population, can be drawn from this average, as the register of baptisms is very imperfect. This, in a great degree, is owing to the carelessness of the parents about the registration of their childrens names, and their backwardness to pay the tax.

† Of these only 1 resides in the parish.

‡ In this number, those who have small pieces of ground, and *neighbour*, as they call it, *with others* in plowing, are not included.

§ In the above list of tradesmen, journeymen and apprentices are enumerated.

Church, School, and Poor.—The church was partly rebuilt in 1771, and is in good condition, but is ill contrived for the intended purpose, and too small for the congregation. Those of the Scotch Episcopal persuasion have a small meeting house for public worship. The manse was built about 70 years ago, and has been three times repaired. The stipend was augmented last year, and is now 56 bolls of meal, 32 bolls of bear, and 43l. 17s. 10½d. in money, including 5l. for communion elements. The glebe is a little above the legal size. Mrs. Helen Milne Nicolson of Glenbervy is patron. There is a parochial schoolmaster, a new school-house, and a dwelling-house for the master. The school fees, for teaching English and writing, are 1s. 6d.; for arithmetic, 2s.; and, for Latin, 2s. 6d. The number of scholars are about 40, at a medium. The salary is about 200 merks Scotch. The number of weekly pensioners may be reckoned, at an average, about 5 or 6, besides many others, who receive occasional, and often considerable supply. The fund for their support and relief arises from the interest of 236l. Sterling, saved mostly out of former collections, the weekly collections on Sunday (about 8s. at an average), mortcloths, proclamation money, and the rents of a few seats in the church.

Horses, Sheep, &c.—There are about 161 draught horses, which may be valued at 12l. Sterling each, one with another, and a considerable number of black cattle, but few sheep, in comparison of the number that might be reared, and kept on the hills belonging to the parish. Mr. Duff of Fetteresso has a small estate in this parish, called *Morgie*, that would maintain 1500 black-faced sheep, which, when fully fed, would sell at 1l. 5s. each. Perhaps the new mode of farming is
against

against the increase of the number of this very useful animal.

Village.—DRUMLITHIE is a small village in the parish, lying on the side of the road from Laurence-kirk to Stonehaven. It is inhabited chiefly by trades people, such as weavers, shoemakers, &c. In this village there is a public house, which is the only one in the parish.

Antiquities.—There are no antiquities in this parish, excepting an erect stone in the E. end of the church, and a stone chest *, which stands directly above the vault, wherein
the

* The following are the inscriptions on the stone :—“ Hic jacent, in spe
“ bonæ resurrectionis, Glenbervii Comarchi, infra designati, et secundum cog-
“ nomina singulis classibus divisi, ab anno 730.”——“ Hugo Hassa, Germanus,
“ illinc huc perigrinatus, ubi præclaris meritis postquam insignis apparuisset,
“ Germunda Dervies, Glenbervii heretrice nupta, sub hoc primum tumulo cum
“ conjuge, liberisque suis obdormit. Horum posterii continuerunt in annum
“ 1004.”——“ Helena ultima Hassarum soboles.”——“ Duncanus Oliphantes,
“ Mernii Decurio, interfectis Donaldto et Waltero Hassæis, fratribus prædictæ
“ Helenæ, clara pugna a campo in Barry expulso Danos, Helenæ heretrice
“ nuptus, Glenbervio succedit, gignitque heredem Walterum, filiamque Mar-
“ garetam, cum agris, nunc *Arbuthnott* designatis. Ortus inde est Robertus, a
“ presente vicecomes, secundus de eodem nomine princeps.”——“ Walterus
“ duxit uxorem Matildam Sinelli Angusiæ thani filiam. Osbertus, horum fili-
“ us, Ægidiam Hay, Arrollii filiam, militiæ studens, cum Godfredo Bulionio
“ in Syriam perrexit, relicta filia unigenita heretrice, in prælio occisus. Nupta
“ 1057, Jacobo Malvill, Hungaria nobili orto, cui peperit filium Hugonem, ma-
“ trimonio Gerardi Macpendarii, Mernii thani, filix, datum. Horum posteri
“ continuerunt in annum 1440.”——“ Militi, filio secundo Archibaldi Comitis
“ Angusiæ, vulgo *Bell-the-Cat*, Gulielmo Duglassio, a Bredwood, Jacobum pat-
“ rem heretricis a Glenbervy, nuptæ, Elisabeta Malvil, nupta Johanni Affleck,
“ de eodem peperit.”

Inscription on the head of the chest :

“ Hic jacet vir illustrissimus, Gulielmus Duglassius, Angusiæ comes, primus
“ Glenbervii

the family, who were formerly proprietors of Glenbervie, are buried; and which, from the inscriptions they contain, may be considered as such.

“ Glenbervii comarchus, qui dicto comitatu hereditario jure successit: Obiit
 “ kalend. Julii, anno Salutis, 1591; ætatis suæ 59.”——“ Hic jacet illustrissima
 “ fœmina, Domina Ægidia Graham, præfati comitis uxor, quæ cum 40 annis
 “ cum ipso conjunctissime vixisset, ac vidua marito et sibi, hoc monumentum
 “ posuisset. Obiit—anno ætatis—Die, anno Domini.”

NUM:

NUMBER XXXVII.

PARISH OF KEIG.

(County and Synod of Aberdeen—Presbytery of Alford.)

By the Rev. Mr. ALEXANDER SMITH, Minister.

Situation, Extent, Surface, and Soil.

THIS parish is divided on the N. and E. by high hills, from the parishes of Monymusk, Oyne, Premnay and Lelly. It is in form somewhat irregular, but compact; the inhabited part of it extending from the church, in all directions, from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 miles. By surveys made of the different estates, it contains 1704 acres arable, and 431 acres pasture ground, besides a considerable extent of hills and moor, and 360 acres in wood, mostly natural. As the arable ground lies partly on the declivities of hills, and partly in a flat country, intersected by the river *Don*, the soil is various, and the surface unequal. The hills are mostly covered with heath, and afford tolerable pasture for sheep and black cattle, of a small breed.

Climate

Climate and Diseases.—The country is inland, and considerably above the level of the sea. The winters, therefore, are often pretty severe, and the work of the spring is sometimes retarded by the long continuance of frost and snow; yet the harvest is not later here than in most other parts of the country. Owing to the vicinity of high hills, thunder, and partial showers of rain, are pretty frequent in summer. Fogs are often seen resting upon the river, and some part of the low grounds, in the nights of July and August; the corn, however, if sowed in proper season, is seldom materially injured by frost or mildews. The climate is certainly very favourable to the human constitution. No epidemical distemper, excepting the small pox and measles, has been known for many years. The influenza was not communicated to others, by those who had caught it in Aberdeen. The people are, in general, healthy; and neither rheumatic nor bowel complaints are frequent, though their houses are often damp and insufficient, and, in some seasons, fuel scarce and bad. The scrophula may perhaps be reckoned the most common distemper; and, when pulmonary or hypochondriacal affections occur, these complaints are generally connected with a scrophulous taint in the blood. The assistance of a physician is seldom asked, till the case is desperate. In all inward disorders, whisky or black beer are the common prescriptions. In cutaneous eruptions, (which are much less common, and considered as more disgraceful than formerly), recourse is too frequently had to mercurial belts and ointments, which can be got in most country shops. The consequences are often fatal. The country people are less reluctant than formerly, to go as patients to the Infirmary of Aberdeen, where they find themselves treated with much kindness and attention.

State of Property, &c.—The Duke of Gordon is superior
of

of the whole lands in this district. Three of the 6 estates in the parish have changed proprietors within these 8 years, and have sold at 30 years purchase or upwards. In the course of 10 years, most of the farms have also changed their possessors. For some time past land has risen in value. *Putachie*, the seat of the family of Forbes, lies in this parish. The house was built in 1731. It commands a very pleasant view of the Valley of Alford, of the windings of the river Don, and of several gentlemens houses and plantations. The buildings, policy, and farm have been lately much improved and enlarged. Adjacent to it, there is a natural wood of considerable extent, which contains trees of most of the kinds common in the North of Scotland, and produces 10 or 12 kinds of wild fruit. Roes are always to be found in it, and red and fallow deer often frequent it.

Population, &c.—The population has varied considerably at different periods; but has greatly decreased within these last 16 years, as will appear from the following table.

STATISTICAL TABLE of the Parish of KEIG.

No. of souls in 1777,	-	615	Ages & Sexes.	Males.	Fem.	Total
Ditto, as returned to Dr. Webster			Under 7 years,	- 33	- 26	- 59
in 1755,	-	499	Above 7 ———	- 195	- 221	- 416
		—		—	—	—
Increase in 22 years,	-	116	In all,	- 228	247	475
Population in May 1792,	-	475				
Decrease in 15 years*,	-	140	Houses			
		—	Inhabited by married pairs,	-		79
Total decrease in 37 years,		24	———— widowers,	-		9

Vol. XI. 3 M Inhabited

* This decrease has been owing partly to the increase of trade and manufactures at Aberdeen, and partly to the failure of the crops in 1782 and 1783, but chiefly to peculiar and temporary causes, not likely again to recur.

Inhabited by widows, -	15	----- schoolmasters, -	1
----- bachelors, -	8	----- poor on the roll, -	10
----- unmarried women, -	6	----- proprietors resident, -	2
		----- ditto non-resident, -	4
Total number of houses, 117		----- Episcopalians, -	7
		----- Seceders, -	4
		----- members of the Establish-	
		ed Church, -	464
<i>Professions and Conditions, &c.</i>			
No. of shopkeepers, -	2		
----- millers, -	4		
----- hawkers, -	1		
----- tailors, -	3		
----- weavers, -	3		
----- shoemakers, -	4		
----- square wrights, -	1		
----- boatmen, -	1		
----- innkeepers, -	1		
----- ministers, -	1		
		<i>Cattle, &c.</i>	
		----- horses, -	148
		----- cows, -	204
		----- oxen, &c. -	406
		----- sheep, -	1229
		----- ploughs, -	47
		----- carts, -	32
		----- pairs of creels, -	11

Female Employments, &c.—Knitting stockings for the Aberdeen manufactures is the principal occupation of the women. Half a crown weekly may be earned by a very good hand; and it is supposed that a sum, equal to two thirds of the land rent, is annually gained in this way. As a lint mill has been lately erected in a neighbouring parish, it is probable that another manufacture will be gradually introduced.

Agriculture, Produce, &c.—Excepting the few mechanics mentioned in the table, the men are chiefly employed in agriculture. Improvements in that branch, however, are yet in their infancy. Few of the tenants sow grass seeds, or raise more turnips or potatoes than are necessary for the pot. The general mode of culture is that which has already been repeatedly related, in the accounts of several parishes in the N. of Scotland. Bear, or bigg, with dung, and afterwards 2 crops of oats, sometimes mixed with rye, is the common rotation

rotation upon infield. The outfield, after producing 3 or 4 crops of oats, is left unplowed 3, 4, or 5 years more. The ridges of both *Out* and *Infield* are generally very broad, and not very straight. They are often very much raised in the middle, and baulks left betwixt them without any apparent necessity. There are some farms of considerable extent. The rest are small; and the horses and cattle of two neighbouring tenants are often joined in one plough. The number of ploughs is 47, which are drawn by 88 *horses*, 87 *cows*, and 153 *oxen and young cattle*. Creels (or baskets) are still used for carrying dung and fuel on the sides of horses. Where there are neither green crops, hay, inclosures, nor winter herding, cattle and sheep must fare very poorly for a considerable part of the year. The greater part of the sheep belong to the possessors of crofts and pendicles; and they are left, for one half of the year, to wander, during the day, in small parcels of from 10 to 40. They are therefore much more detrimental to the neighbours, than advantageous to their owners. It is supposed, however, that this parish commands hill pasture for sheep, to the extent of at least 2000 acres.

Farm-Rents, Wages, &c.—The rent of the infield ground is from 12s. to 21s.; of outfield, from 2s. to 5s. per acre. The rent is paid partly in money, and partly in grain, customs, services, and mill multures. The wages of men servants are from 4l. 10s. to 6l. 10s., or 7l.;—of women servants, from 2l. to 3l. per annum;—of day labourers, 6d. with maintainance. There are few day-labourers, as it is only at some seasons of the year that they could find employment from the farmers. Reapers are hired for the harvest, the men at 2l. and the women at 1l.

Roads.—Aberdeen is the nearest sea port, being 25l. miles distant.

distant. The roads are made, and kept in repair, by the statute labour; but the landholders, in this and other parishes in the neighbourhood, have lately subscribed different proportions of the valued rents of their estates, for the purpose of making some miles of road in a new tract to Aberdeen.

Church, School, and Poor.—The Crown is patron. The stipend, including communion element money, is 53l. 6s. 8d., 2 chalders meal, and 1 chalder bear. The teind victual, paid from lands in this parish to Monymusk, amounts to 22 bolls of meal.—The schoolmaster's salary is 100 merks Scotch. The number of children, who attend the school, is from 10 to 30.—Besides the poor on the roll, who, for several years past, have not exceeded 10, others have been assisted occasionally. The parish funds, at present, are 3l. 10s. per annum, for interest of money lent. The annual collections, &c. may amount to, from 5l. to 8l. Till lately, the poor were more numerous, and the parish funds less considerable; but no person, belonging to this parish, has begged for 15 years past. The people, in general, are sufficiently attentive and assisting to their neighbours, when in want or distress. The residing heritors are remarkably so; and their attention and assistance are not confined to their own estates.

NUM.

NUMBER XXXVIII.

PARISH OF EDDERTOWN.

(County and Synod of Ross—Presbytery of Tain.)

By the Rev. Mr. ALEXANDER MUNRO, Minister.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE parish of EDDERTOWN certainly derives its name from its situation, being on all sides, excepting the N., surrounded by hills and mountains. It is pronounced *Ederdoun* in Gaelic, and surely ought to be written so in English. The parish is situated in that part of the county of Ross, called Easter Ross. It is about 10 miles in length, and 7 in breadth, and the Frith of Tain washes its coast on the N.

Rivulets, Soil, Cultivation, &c.—There are no rivers of note, but several small rivulets, known by the appellation of *burns*; which, when swelled with rainy weather, being without bridges, greatly interrupt the traveller. Here there is a variety of soils, generally deep and rich; but the moisture
falling

falling from the surrounding hills makes the bottom cold, and occasions late harvests. The climate is the same with that of the parishes around it. There are no natural woods, but Sir Charles Ross of Balnagown, and Mr. M'Leod of Cadboll, have some hundred acres planted with Scotch firs.

Cattle, Cultivation, and Produce.—There are about 1000 black cattle in the parish. There are no sheep walks; but as every tenant and cottager rears a few sheep, the number upon the whole must be considerable. As there are no improvements in husbandry, the time and attention of the people is taken up in the management of the farms, which require many hands, and occupy many cattle, their horses and oxen being of a small size. Those of Mr. Hugh Scobie of Ardmore, however, must be excepted. This gentleman labours successfully according to the new system, and was lately at the expence of bringing a manure, known by the name of *shelly sand*, from the island of Tanara, near Ullapool, through the Pentland Frith, to his farm at Ardmore. His labour and expence are already most amply repaid. His stock of cattle is large, and of the best quality, the place giving him every advantage for these purposes. In summer he abounds with grass, and in winter he has the best of covering, and a good shore. He likewise rears large quantities of wheat, barley, oats, beans, pease, potatoes, turnips, and artificial grass. The farm of *Easter-Fearn*, for which, about 40 years ago, a tenant could not be found at the rent of 211, is so improved by watering, that it lets now at more than triple that sum.

Inclosures, Fuel, &c.—This parish is very capable of improvement, having great tracts of moors, gently sloping, with clay and gravelly bottoms*. The grounds inclosed by Sir John

* Since the year 1745, there have been very considerable additions to the arable

John Ross, formerly barren moor, are now richly covered with barley, oats, turnips, potatoes, clover and rye-grass. The whole inclosure consists of 300 Scotch acres, of a circular form, and on the outside of the circle is a deep belting of firs, ash, and other forest timbers. The death of that gentleman seems to have put a stop to any more of the ground being subdivided and turned into corn land. Few parishes have more the means of improvement within themselves; the soil of the moors is good; there is great abundance of turf† and peat; and the burn of *Doan*, which is pretty central, abounds with lime. There are great quantities of sea weed, commonly called sea ware, on all our shores.

Population.—The population of this parish is upon the increase.

The present number of souls, of all ages, is about - 1000

The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was only - 780

Increase, - - - - - 220

Rents

arable ground of this parish, by cottagers settling in these moors. The late Admiral Sir JOHN ROSS of Balnagowan, inclosed and subdivided, with excellent stone dikes, about 60 acres.

† Here it may not be improper to take notice of the *DUTCH way of preparing TURF*. As soon as the Dutch have sown their spring corn, they begin to prepare the turf for winter fuel. They first take off the green sod; they then pour water on the turf mould, and dig it out, by little and little, till they reach sandy soil. The hole is made slopping, that a horse and cart may go into it. This mud is carted out on a field; then spread with a spade, to 3 or 4 inches thick; then cut cross ways. Those who wish to have their turf still harder, squeeze the mud, whilst soft, into round forms, resembling loaves, or form them in shapes like brick making, and then let them dry in the fields. When the pieces of turf are become a little hard, they are laid in heaps, that they may dry, and be more effectually sheltered from rain. From this they are carried home, and put under a roof. The turf soil is either brown, red, or black, but must not be mixed with sand or clay.

Rents and Proprietors.—The gross rent of the parish is about 650 bolls of grain, and 500l. Sterling in money. The rent is fluctuating, but is daily increasing. The heritors are, Sir Charles Ross of Balnagown, Mr. M'Leod of Cadboll, Mr. M'Kenzie of Ardross, Mr. John Robertson merchant in Glasgow, and Mr. Ross of Kerse. None of these gentlemen reside in the parish.

Church and School.—The Church is situated within a mile of the eastern extremity of this parish. Both church and manse are old, and stand much in need of repairs. The stipend is 120 bolls of grain, and 9l. 14s. 6d. Sterling for vicarage and communion elements. All the parishioners are in communion with the church of Scotland. The patron is Capt. Kenneth M'Kenzie of Cromarty.—There is a parochial school. The salary is so very small, that none can be got to teach it, who is at all master of any of the learned languages. However, the cultivation of the English language is increasing.

Employments and Character.—We have no established manufactures; but the women and girls are often employed in spinning, what in this country we call *factory yarn*, from lint; and the best spinners among them, with difficulty, earn 2½d. per day. The people subsist chiefly by agriculture, and like their neighbours, are of a mixt character. They are very industrious; and, upon the whole, are very regular in attending divine ordinances.

Antiquities, &c.—There is a large plain, about half a mile to the W. of the church, and in circumference about 2 miles, where there are evident marks of an encampment. Tradition

tion says, that a battle was fought here against the Danes*. Near to this there is a large circle of earth, flat in the top, and raised about 2 feet above the level of the ground around it. In the centre of this circle, there is a large obelisk, above 10 feet high above the ground. No tool seems to have been employed in forming it, though there are some rude figures still discernible, the largest of a triangular form, with small circles suspended from it. Here the Prince of Denmark, who commanded his countrymen, is said to be interred. The plain is called *Carriblair*; and the village, immediately to the S. of it, is to this day dalled *Ballioch*, or *Physician's Town*, where, it is said, the wounded were lodged and taken care of†. There is only one other piece of antiquity, that merits attention, which is *Dunaliskag*, about 4 miles from the church, by the sea side. It is one of these circular buildings, called by some *cairns*, by others *douns*. The stones are of a very large size, and laid very regularly and close. To the S. W. it is still about 12 feet high, and 7 where it is lowest‡. The entry is to the E.; and the middle of the wall, which makes the circle, is

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open,

* There are evident marks, indeed, of a battle, and a very bloody one, as there are still many heaps to be seen, under which the slain had been interred. One of these, about 10 years ago, was levelled by the schoolmaster; and, when trenching it, along with the ground around it, his spade struck against a coffin. He soon found five of them, in which there were human skeletons perfectly entire, excepting one that wanted the head. The coffins were made of fir, and in the highest preservation. By the skeletons it would appear, that the size of the bodies was about 5 feet 10 inches.

† Ossian mentions the battle of Carros in one of the detached pieces annexed to Fingal, and where he himself commanded, and worsted the Danes. Perhaps this may have been the scene of action, *Carriblair*, in Gaelic, signifying the battle of Carros.

‡ In the memory of many still living, it was more than double its present height.

open, with a stair on each side of the door. The only remarkable natural curiosity, is a water fall, over which the small river *Grugag*, in the wester end of the parish, falls, which is thought to be about 100 yards of perpendicular height.

height. About these circles there is such a variety of opinions, that the author of this article shall not venture to mention one of his own.

NUM.

NUMBER XXXIX.

TOWN AND PARISH OF HUNTLY.

(County of Aberdeen—Synod of Moray—Presbytery of Strathbogie)

By the Rev. Mr. ROBERT INNES, Minister.

Erection and Names.

HUNTLY, which is the modern name of the parish, consists of 2 divisions, the town and the country part. The town bears by much the greater proportion. The parish consisted, formerly, of 2 distinct parishes, both served by one parson. The name of the one was *Dumbenan*, which signifies *the bottom of the hill*; and accordingly all the farm-houses are placed at the bottom of the different hills surrounding the village, such as, *Clashmach*, the grey-headed hill; *Bin-hill*, or the stony-hill; *Ordfull*, or the battle-hill, &c. The name of the other parish, before they were united, was *Kinore*, that is, the *gold or yellow-headed hill*; and in all public advertisements it is still thus distinguished.—These 2 parishes of Dum-

benan and Kinore were united by a decree of the Lords of Session and Plantation of Kirks, and called the parish of HUNTLY, in honour of the Duke of Gordon's eldest son; and a place of worship erected, central to both, in the year 1727.

Extent and Roads.—The extremity of that part of the parish, called *Kinore*, is distant from the town of Huntly 3 computed miles, over very rough and rocky ground; and to the extremity of the other, called *Dumbenan*, it is also 3 computed miles, equally rough and rocky; and, indeed, in those parts where the roads through the parish have been attempted to be made by statute labour, as they have hitherto been conducted, they are often impassable.

Climate, Diseases, &c.—The air of Huntly is salubrious. There are no distempers peculiar to this place, but what are common to other manufacturing towns. Weavers, and those whose business confines them to low and damp shops, may be more subject to asthmatic and scorbutic complaints, but the place, on the whole, is healthy, and the inhabitants, who are in general sober and industrious, live to a good age. There are many now living in the parish aged from 70 to 87; and one died a few years ago aged 90. But the number of ale-houses, and private retailers of spiritous liquors, not only becomes hurtful to the health, but very prejudicial to the morals of the lower class of tradesmen and mechanics.

Hill, &c.—In Kinore there is a hill called *St. Mungo*, on the W. side of which there is a spring issuing from it, called *St. Mungo's Well*, of no medicinal quality but what arises from superstitious credulity. On the top of the N. end, there is a large circular opening, which, in a rainy season, is full of water, and seldom quite empty. In very dry summers
some

some peats have been got from it, but of a sulphurous nature. Many pieces of hard and porous stuff, resembling *lava*, or rather the refuse of a smith's forge, have been found about it. Near to this opening there is a very large stone, and another just by it of a much less size, the superficies of each exactly corresponding to the other, as if they had fallen asunder by some extraordinary convulsion. The whole of this hill is now inclosed, and planted with trees of various kinds.

Town.—The town is placed in a dry and healthy situation, surrounded with hills, but at a convenient distance, all mostly inclosed, full of plantations of firs, elms, oaks, birch, &c. It is the seat of the presbytery, and a post town. There are 2 principal streets in the town of Huntly, crossing each other at right angles, forming a spacious square, where the weekly and other markets are held. Here too there was once a town-house and a prison; but they are now demolished. On each side of the square there are many decent and commodious dwelling-houses; and many on the street leading to it.—A spirit of building still prevails.

Rivers, Bridges, Mills, &c.—Two pleasant rivers run on each side of it; the *Doveron* on the W. and the *Bogie* on the E., both uniting half a mile below it, where they present a delightful and romantic scene, and, thus uniting, glide over a rough and rocky channel, shaded with trees on each side, till they fall into the sea at Banff, 21 miles N. E. of Huntly. On each of the rivers there is a bridge: that over the *Bogie* is modern, and has 3 arches, very convenient for heavy carriages to and from Aberdeen, which is 34 measured miles distant; and for bringing peats and turf from the moss, 5 miles distant. The name of this river is said to be Gaelic, and to signify *marshy slow-running water*. The water is of an excellent quality,

quality, and fit for every purpose, particularly whitening and bleaching cloth. There are, accordingly, several bleachfields richly covered in the bleaching season with white linen cloth, to a great value, thread, stockings, cotton, &c. Upon this water (which rises in the parish of Achindore, 8 miles S. of Huntly, and is increased by the water of *Kirkney* and *Ness-Bogie*, with some small burns), there are several mills for grinding corn, barley, malt, and other grain, well occupied from the adjacent fruitful fields. One of these, called *the Mill of Huntly*, is in this parish, and is supplied with water from the Bogie.—The river *Doveron* takes its source in the *Gabrach*, 12 miles above Huntly; a little below it meets with a river called *the Black-water*, and is increased by some small burns, till it becomes very full and rapid at the Kirk of Glasf. Over the river *Doveron* there is a bridge of 1 arch, very ancient, but very strong, built upon a rock; and each stone of the arch, as far as the river in a flood may be supposed to reach, is strongly bound together with iron. Standing upon the bridge, one has a most agreeable view, whether he looks downward to the spot where the rivers join, called *the Invers*, or up the river, gliding through spacious and fruitful fields on each side. It leads also to Huntly Lodge through a broad avenue, gently ascending to the House, shaded with trees of various kinds*. The *Doveron* would be often impassable,

* It may not be improper to observe, that, though, for time immemorial, the water has kept its present course, there is ground to think it has not always done so; but that its ancient course had been by a long range of bank, now called *the Meadow Braes*, and terminating at a place called *the Kiln Barns*, probably from its having been the place where the out-houses, stables, barns, &c. of that noble family stood, when they resided at the castle, and which have since been detached to a proper distance from it. The old foundations are still to be seen. This long curved bank is now inclosed by a ditch and strong hedge, corresponding

passable, were it not for this bridge, by which the roads on the other side lead, the one to Portsoy, 10 computed miles distant northward; the other to Keith, Fochabers, Gordon Castle, and the river Spey.

Fish.—Both the Doveron and the Bogie afford excellent trouts. Those of the Bogie are preferable to the others, from its muddy and clayey bottom, and perhaps from the soft quality of its water. After a flood, many salmon are got; and did the proprietors of the salmon-fishing, at Banff, observe the legal openings in their cruives or dikes, many more might be caught, to the great advantage of the different heritors.

Minerals.—Upon the banks of the Doveron, near its junction with the Bogie, there was an attempt made, some years ago, to discover a lead mine, and, after digging to a considerable depth, many pieces of a black friable matter, like the ore which the lead pencils are made of, were got; but the work was discontinued.—A lime-stone quarry was happily discovered, some years ago, in the S. W. end of the parish, but when opened, it was found so difficult to get at, that it was abandoned, after working to a considerable depth.—Near the same place there is a kind of white marble, of which the author has seen a horizontal dial made, perfectly smooth on the surface, and all the lines and figures drawn quite clear as on slate.

Agriculture.—In this parish there are many excellent farms, rented from 20l. to 60l., including a certain proportion of farm meal, of the best quality, which the tenants are obliged to

ing to the turns of the supposed ancient course of the river, and planted with a variety of trees, different shrubs, and clumps of nurseries, all kept in good condition and very thriving.

to carry from the granary at their own charge, and which is all the service the proprietor requires. It would seem, that the country in general had not been favourable for the production of barley, till of late that the erection of distilleries has encouraged farmers, to prepare their grounds for that now very vendible grain. But were farmers more encouraged, by the heritors granting longer leases than are generally given, under certain restrictions, and modes of improvement, it would give vigour and spirit to the industrious farmer. He would be encouraged to improve his land to the highest degree of cultivation, of which it was capable; and the face of the country would present a more beautiful appearance, and become more profitable to both landholder and tenant. At present, except straightening the ridges, where that can be done, little more, in such a state, can, in general, be looked for. Some of the most substantial tenants have strong ploughs and good cattle; but most farmers plow with poor horses, and weak cattle, yoked together.

Cattle.—The number of cattle cannot be ascertained. Many dealers in that article, rent parks from the neighbouring proprietors, for the sole purpose of keeping their stock on hand, for a few days or weeks, till they have opportunity of driving to market.—This is not a sheep country. The inclosures and planting oblige the tenant to reduce the number of these useful animals, and the few that are in it are poor and shabby, and of a comparatively diminutive size; except those wedders that range the hills, and are seldom or never housed, or such as are fed, and sold for butcher-meat.

Improvements and Produce, &c.—The village of Huntly has surprisngly increased within these 50 years, in population and industry, insomuch that, where all around it, for

some distance, was formerly barren heath, swamps, or marsh, there is now scarcely one uncultivated spot to be seen; and barley, oats, lint, potatoes, and turnips, are produced in abundance, where nothing grew before. This spirit of improvement and manufacture was first introduced by a few who dealt in the yarn trade. From their laudable example, and from observing the profits arising from industry, others were encouraged; and now it is become one of the first villages in the North, both in point of population and manufactures. Being situated in the midst of a large and fertile country, the industrious inhabitants have a ready sale for what they bring to market, by which many poor cottagers and subtenants are enabled to pay for their scanty possessions.

Prices of Labour and Provisions.—The advanced price of all the necessaries of life makes wages high in proportion. The common hire of a ploughman is from 7l. to 8l. yearly, of a day-labourer from 8d. to 10d. or 1s., according to the work he is hired for, and his skill in doing it. A mason's wages are 1s. 3d. a-day; a wright's and flater's the same, when the work is not undertaken by private bargain.—The price of provisions, of all kinds, has been greatly advanced of late years; that of fish, in particular, has increased. Haddocks, formerly sold for 5d. or 6d. the dozen, now sell for 7d. 9d. and even sometimes 1s. 6d. the half dozen. The best beef sells at 3½d. and 4d. the pound; and mutton from 1s. 6d. to 2s. the quarter.

Rent and Proprietors.—The real rent of the parish is about 1700l. Sterling, and the valued rent about 2600l. Scotch. The Duke of Gordon is proprietor of the whole parish, excepting a haugh of land in the N. end of Kinore, which belongs to Mr. Gordon of Avochy.

Population.—The number of inhabitants is not exactly ascertained, but old and young, in town and country, may be safely stated at - - - - - 3600

The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was only - 1900

There is therefore an increase of, at least, - 1700

—It is but of late, that much attention was paid to the registration of births and burials; many dissenters, as well as others, either neglecting, or refusing, to insert their childrens names in the register of baptisms kept here; and many having their burial places in other parishes, the number of deaths cannot be exactly known. Since the year 1786, however, they stand thus:

	MARRIAGES.	BAPTISMS.	BURIALS.
In 1786, there were	18	33	20
1787, ——— ———	17	49	18
1788, ——— ———	22	45	31
1789, ——— ———	17	41	31
1790, ——— ———	14	45	21
1791, ——— ———	30	39	32
1792, ——— ———	21	48	31

Manufactures and Professions.—There are employed in the town of Huntly 52 flaxdressers. At an average, each hand will dress 40 mats of flax in a year, each mat weighing 109 lbs. English, the average value whereof will be 3l. Sterling per mat, which spins from 4 to 12 hanks per lib., and will be worth, when spun into yarn, 7l. 16s. Sterling per mat: The whole will amount to 16,224l. Sterling.—There are likewise 209 weavers, who will work in a year, at an average, 73,150 yards of cloth, which, at 2s. per yard, will amount to 7315l. Sterling, exclusive of the weavers employed by

by the manufacturers in Huntly, in different towns, and in the country around.—There is also a cotton manufactory established in this place, but it is yet in an infant state. There are about 32 wrights, including wheel and cart-wrights. There are also masons, blacksmiths, tailors, &c. in proportion.

Church, &c.—The church, when first erected, might have been perhaps large enough, to contain more than, at that time, attended the Established worship, but it cannot now hold above 3 fourths of the parish, though 3 galleries have been of late erected. One of these is directly fronting the pulpit, which, from the narrowness of the church, proves a very great incumbrance to the speaker's voice, and equally so to many of the hearers. The other 2 galleries were erected at the expence of the session, and the rent of the seats annually paid for the use of the poor. If there had been a church erected here, equal to the number of inhabitants, and suited to the high rank of the patron, it would have prevented many dissenters and sectaries, and, what is of greater consequence, would have contributed to a more religious observation of the Sabbath; as many, who cannot find room in the church, either go to other places of worship, stay at home, or stroll in the fields.—There are other 3 places of public worship, 1 of the Secession (Antiburgher), 1 of the Church of England, and 1 of Roman Catholics; but the numbers attending these are, not increasing. The pastors of each, however, live in mutual friendship and Christian charity. There is no manse properly belonging to the minister. There is a glebe, but it lies at such a distance from the town, that the present incumbent finds it more profitable, to let it in lease from year to year, than to cultivate it. It consists of 10 acres of ground, of various qualities, partly of a hard, dry, and sandy soil, and partly

partly of a loamy clay. The stipend is 1000 merks Scotch, of which there are 3 chalders of oat-meal, at 8 stone per boll, and 50 merks for communion elements.—The Duke of Gordon is patron.

Schools.—There is a parochial school, but it is poorly endowed, the salary being only 6l. 18s. 10d., with the perquisites, viz. 6d. for each baptism, 1s. for each marriage, and 2l. 4s. 5d. as session-clerk. These, with the quarterly payments for teaching, (English 1s. 6d., for writing and arithmetic, 2s., and for Latin 2s. 6d.) are the whole of the schoolmaster's emoluments. There are other private schools here, of great advantage both to parents and children; nevertheless a Sunday, or a charity school would be of great use.

Poor.—The fund for the support of the poor consists chiefly of collections from the congregation, which, at an average, may be from 5s. to 8s. weekly; with the interest of 1000 merks of mortified money, and some lent out on bills, together with penalties incurred by delinquents, and the rents of the seats in the 2 galleries. The session regularly meet every two months, and distribute to the poor on the roll, according as their necessities (from the best of their knowledge and information) demand; besides many interim disbursements for coffins, shoes, clothes, &c. as occasion requires. The gallery in the front being erected at the expence of the Society of Weavers, the money arising from it is allotted to indemnify that expence. The inhabitants in general are of that charitable disposition, which tends to invite many poor people, and even whole families, from other parts, to reside among them. The writer hereof has known some young fellows, on extraordinary emergencies, go through the whole parish, dividing it into particular districts,

tricts, to each of which one or two of them was sent, and thus collect money, meal, &c. for the *immediate* relief of such poor, as age, infirmity, or accidental misfortune, had rendered objects of compassion. The Society of Weavers, Flax-dressers, and Gardeners, have a box, to which each member pays a quarterly contribution, besides what is paid on his admission, for the relief of the poor widows, children, and decayed tradesmen of their respective societies.

Castle, &c.—Nigh to the bridge of Doveron stand the remains of *Huntly-Castle*, which still afford a striking proof of the grandeur and hospitality of that ancient family*, though one part only of the original plan seems to have been completed. On the N. front are the arms of the family cut in stone, with the names of the original proprietors, GEORGE GORDON, first Marquis of Huntly, and HENRIETTA STEWART, first Marchioness of Huntly, 1602. Though they have been exposed to the boisterous N. wind near 200 years, and no care has been taken to preserve them, from the wanton and injurious hands of the vulgar, the artist's chissel is strongly and distinctly marked. A spacious turnpike stair leads to what has been once a very grand hall, and which still bears the marks of its former splendor and magnificence. Its length is about 43 feet, its breadth 29, and its height 16. There is another grand apartment immediately over this, 37 feet in length and 29 in breadth. The chimneys of both are highly ornamented with curious sculpture of various figures, which, considering the inattention paid to this once magnificent fabric, are still

* Many people, still in life, remember to have seen a range of pillars, supporting an arched roof, which seemed to have been intended as a cover for such as inclined to take the air, or a view of the garden which lay before the Castle; there being a door that had led to it, from the upper hall, on a level with it.

still in a tolerable state of preservation, and must attract the observation of any one who has a taste for ancient sculpture. The thickness of the wall admits of several small closets, and, in the upper apartments, there are large bow windows, a little projected from the surface of the wall fronting the S. Indeed most of the apartments are still in tolerable preservation; particularly the ceilings, which are ornamented with a great variety of paintings, in small divisions, containing many emblematical figures, with verses, expressive of some moral sentiment, in doggerel rhyme. At a little distance from the Castle, on the N., there are the remains of some works, which seem to have been intended for defence; and, on the W., a large mound, which probably had been collected from the earth and rubbish dug for the foundation of the building, (and for other apartments below, which are all vaulted), and afterwards made into its present form, somewhat resembling a conic figure, or rather a sugar loaf broke off near the top. On the avenue which leads to the Castle, there are 2 square towers, which had defended the gateway, and which the present incumbent has seen adorned with the arms of the family, cut out in stone, in the front of the wall adjoining each tower, in good repair. The hewn stone of the windows and corners has been taken out, and applied to other more ignoble purposes.

NUMBER XL.

PARISH OF CARNOCK.

(County and Synod of Fife—Presbytery of Dumfermline.)

By the Rev. Mr. ALEXANDER THOMSON.

Origin of the Name.

IT is not known, when, either the parish, or the village from which it is denominated, received the name of *Carnock*. But it is probable, that this happened at the time when the Gaelic was the prevailing language in the Lowlands of Scotland. In that language, the words *Cair*, or *Gairn*, and *Knock*, (of which *Carnock* is supposed to be a compound), signify a *Village*, or *Collection of Houses adjoining to a small bill*, which is very expressive of its situation. The adjoining eminence of *Carneil Hill* seems to have been the spot where a battle was once fought, probably during the time of the Danish invasion, in 1039, or 1042^{*}; and perhaps derived its name (Cairn-Neil) from one of the chieftains who fell on that occasion.

Situation,

^{*} *Vide Buchanan's Hist. Scot. lib. VI.*

Situation, Extent, Surface, and Hills.—This parish is situated in the western extremity of the county of Fife. Its form is nearly square, if we except an excrescence containing the barony of Pitdennies, which terminates in the village of *Cairney-bill*, and extends the whole breadth of the parish at its southern extremity. The length and breadth are about 3 English miles at a medium †. The ground is level towards the E., but has a gentle declivity towards the S., and is bounded on the N. and N. E. by some hills, which terminate in a precipice, called *Craig-Luscar*, beyond the limits of the parish. Other hills, called *the Clums*, separate this parish from that of *Saline*. Most of the ground consists of gentle declivities. The *Camp's Bank* on the S. and *Carneil Hills* on the W. are considerable eminences, commanding extensive prospects of the Frith of Forth, and the country adjacent. The former has a fine exposure towards the S., consisting mostly of arable land greatly improved; the latter consists of excellent pasture.

Soil, Produce, Woods, &c.—The soil is partly black earth, and partly clay or till. In several places there is a mixture of gravel near the surface; but the two first species of soil are most prevalent, and the country is of consequence pretty fertile. The hills, except such as are in tillage, are in general covered with grass; but the heath begins to appear upon the rising grounds towards the N. The ground produces crops of oats, barley, pease, wheat, turnips, and sown grass, in considerable quantities. There is also natural grass, mixed with several herbs, and fit for pasture, on those grounds, which
either

† The precise number of acres is not ascertained, there being no map of the parish, though it is pretty accurately delineated in STORIE's map of Fifeshire, published about the year 1779, or 1780.

either are not arable, or have not been tilled within the memory of man. There are pretty considerable plantations of wood on the lands of Clune and Pitdennies, chiefly fir, with some ash and larix trees intermixed. In *Luscar Dean* (or *Den*) there are several pleasant walks among the trees, with very romantic scenery; and upon the banks of the rivulet, near the village of Carnock, there are some trees which have stood these 50 years, and afford a refreshing shade during the heat of summer.

Climate and Diseases.—The air is rather damp in winter and spring, but in summer it is abundantly salubrious. Epidemical distempers are more rare in this, than in some of the neighbouring parishes. The most common complaints are coughs and rheumatisms, which prevail most in winter and spring. Fevers and fluxes are rare. The small-pox generally visits the parish once in 3 or 4 years. The 4 last returns were in 1780, 1783, 1787, and 1789. That of 1787 was by far the most severe, when 15 children out of 45 died of that distemper; and that of 1789, the most favourable, when only three died out of 63; and, of these 3, one at least was in bad health before. In 1780 and 1783, the medium of deaths was from 4 to 6 each year, though a great many had that disease. Inoculation has as yet made but little progress, though the prejudices of the common people, against that salutary practice, seem to be subsiding.

Agriculture, Crops, Exports, &c.—The rotation of crops is much the same here as in other parts of the country. After rye-grass, oats, sometimes repeated, then pease and beans, then turnips or potatoes, or fallow and lime, succeeded by a crop of wheat. There seems to be a seventh part of the arable land in fallow and turnips, and about a seventh part under

sown grafs. The ploughs employed by the farmers are the common Scotch plough and Small's plough. The latter was introduced here within these last 10 years. When the ground is limed, 5 or 6 bolls of lime, mixed with dung or compost, generally suffices for an acre; but a much larger quantity is found necessary on land taken in from moors. Upon part of the estate of Clune, about 50 bolls per acre were used, when it was first improved. Inclosures have made great progress within the last 30 years, above four 5ths of the arable land being already inclosed, and the remainder in the near prospect of being so. The fences are partly stone walls *teetbed* with lime, partly ditches, with thorn hedges on the top, which thrive pretty well. The quantity of ground, laid out under the different crops, cannot be exactly ascertained, but the following is nearly the average of the arable land. Under clover and rye-grass one 5th, wheat one 10th, barley one 5th, oats one 4th, pease one 5th, turnips one 10th, potatoes one 8th, flax one 20th, and, in field cabbage, a few falls of ground*; besides about one 4th kept in pasture. There is no common, even the moor land being exactly divided among the different proprietors. Within these 2 years there has been more than usual attention paid to the growth of flax, several acres being annually laid out in that way, by persons who make it their business to attend to it during summer. The produce, even when the crop is but indifferent, is fully adequate to the consumption of the inhabitants. When plentiful, it is exported in considerable quantities. Barley is sent to Culrofs, Borrowstownness, Alloa, and Dunfermline, where it is manufactured into malt. Meal and potatoes are also sent to Dunfermline.

Minerals.—This parish is plentifully supplied with coals, there

* There is no rye sown in the parish, nor any black oats; although considerable quantities of the latter were sown last century in the N. E. part of the parish.

there being at least 5 different coal mines in it, belonging to as many different proprietors; viz. Sir John Halket of Pitfirran—the Rev. Dr. John Erskine of Carnock—Mr. Mill of Blair—Mr. Mutter of Annfield—and Mr. Hogg of New Liston. There is also some iron-stone on the estates of these gentlemen. The produce of the mines is uncertain. Mr. Mutter's coal lets at 100l. a-year, and Dr. Erskine's at 40l. Mr. Mill's, which is wrought for his own emolument, is supposed to produce from 80l. to 100l. per annum. The stone quarries on the N. part of Dr. Erskine's estate are of great extent, and easily wrought without any *tirring*. They are situated within 3 miles of the port of Torry, and 5 of Limekilns, where they can be conveniently shipped for exportation. They consist of 3 different kinds of stone, one of a bluish black colour, with a fine *greek*, capable of receiving a polish like marble. This stone will stand the fire, and the longer it is exposed, it becomes the more durable, and contracts the blacker hue. The second is a white stone, of a fine small *greek*, soft when first raised from the quarry, but gradually hardening afterwards. Though, to appearance, not very durable, it withstands the ravages of rain and tempest. Stones of both these species have been dug up, 24 feet long and 5 or 6 broad; and, it is not doubted, they might be raised of far greater dimensions. The third is of a brownish colour and a harder quality than the second, well calculated for building houses, &c. Some of this kind have been raised 7 or 8 feet long. They take a fine polish. Double the quantity of stones can be quarried here, in the same space of time, that can be done in any of the other quarries in the country.

Springs and Rivulets.—There are a few mineral springs in the parish, chiefly of the chalybeate kind, but they are little

attended to. There are no lakes of any magnitude, but a few pools, called *dams*, such as, *Bonhead Dam*, *Carnock Dam*, *Carneil Dam*, &c. The first and last of these furnish the *leads* of the mill of Carnock. There are 3 rivulets, viz. the *Carnock Burn* or *Blair Burn*, the *Camps Burn*, and the *Burn of Pitdennies* or *Cairny-hill*. They all run from E. to W., and, after joining several other small streams, discharge themselves into the Frith of Forth beyond the bounds of the parish. There is a fourth on the northern boundary, which runs westward and afterwards to the S., where it obtains the name of *Henderson's Burn*, and at last joins that of *Carnock*, which produces a few trouts and eels.

Animals.—The quadrupeds are such as are common in the country. The horses and black cattle are of the middle size, and thrive in proportion to the richness of the pasture and goodness of the season. There are but few sheep, especially since sown grass became general in the parish. The birds, besides the common poultry and a few turkies, are magpies, sparrows, crows, and a few hawks, with swallows and cuckoos in their seasons.

Population.—With respect to the population of the parish in ancient times, we cannot now speak with precision, only it appears, that the southern part was much less populous formerly than it is at present. There are people yet alive, who remember only a few houses, (perhaps *two* or *three*) standing upon the ground which is now occupied by the populous village of Cairney-hill, where there are now more than 400 souls; and there are several adjoining farms on the property of Sir John Halkett in this parish, upon each of which there are families of children and servants probably as nume-

rons as before the village existed. In other parts of the parish, the population is more similar to what it was 30 or 40 years ago. The average of burials, from 1754 to 1761, is about $11\frac{1}{2}$, which, if multiplied by 36, gives 414: perhaps that register is not perfectly exact; but if we suppose that it is, and that the proportion of burials, to the number of inhabitants, is the same here as above, they were scarce the half of their present number. The population, at different periods, and the proportion of marriages, births, and burials, to the number of inhabitants in 1781 and 1791, may be observed by inspecting the following tables:

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF CARNOCK.

Population in 1755,	-	-	-	583	<i>Increase.</i>
———— in 1781*,	-	-	-	912	
	Increase in 26 years, —			329	
Number of souls in 1791*,	-	-	-	970	
	Increase in 10 years, -			58	
	Total increase in 37 years,			387	
Annual average of burials for 7	Number of houses, - - -				260
years, from 1754 to 1761, - $11\frac{1}{2}$	———— ploughst†, -				36
Ditto of births for the last 10	———— carts, -				52
years, nearly - 28	———— horses, - - -				140
———— marriages, nearly - 8	———— black cattle, -				620
———— deaths, - - - 19	———— sheep, -				100
Members of the Estab. Church,	———— farmers marri†, 22				
including infants, - - 489	———— ditto unmarried, - 4				
Dissenters of various deno-	———— heritors resident, 3				
minations, - - - 481	———— ditto non-resident, 4				
———— 970	———— feuars in villages, - 80				
	Number				

* * These surveys were made, and the lists completed, the former in March 1781, and the latter in December 1791.

† Oxen are employed in about a third of these. The rest are entirely drawn by horses.

‡ All of these have children.

Number of ditto in the country,	20	Number of miners,	- - 6
----- weavers, masters, -	35	----- colliers, about 35 or 40	
----- ditto, journeymen and		----- ministers, -	1
apprentices, -	35	----- antiburgher ditto,	1
----- smiths, -	5	----- students in divinity,	2
----- masons, - -	4	----- poor on the rolls,	15
----- wrights, -	6	----- male servants, -	60
----- tailors, - -	5	----- female ditto, - - -	59
----- mariners, -	2	----- day-labourers, -	40

MARRIAGES.

BAPTISMS.

DEATHS, OR BURIALS.

	Couples.	Males.	Females.	Tot.	Males.	Females.	Tot.
1781, -	10	20	10	30	7	9	16
1782, - -	6	11	11	22	9	5	14
1783, -	7	13	11	24	12	13	25
1784, -	10	14	8	22	6	8	14
1785, -	17	16	15	31	4	9	13
1786, - -	8	20	16	36	6	4	10
1787, -	6	16	15	31	17	14	31
1788, -	10	17	12	29	7	8	15
1789, -	8	19	16	35	11	17	28
1790, - -	5	7	16	23	15	8	23
	87	153	130	283	94	95	189
Aver. for } 10 years, }	8 $\frac{7}{10}$	15 $\frac{3}{10}$	13	28 $\frac{3}{10}$	9 $\frac{4}{10}$	9 $\frac{5}{10}$	18 $\frac{9}{10}$

Villages and Manufactures.—The two principal villages are *Carnock* and *Cairney-hill*, both pleasantly situated, the former upon a small rivulet, the latter upon the great road leading from Dunfermline to Torryburn, Culrofs, Alloa, and Stirling. The bridge, which joins the 2 divisions of the village

lage of Carnock, bears date 1638. The village of Cairneyhill forms part of the estate of Pitdennies, the property of Sir John Halkett of Pitfirran, Baronet. The villages of *Gowk-hall* and *New Luscar* are but small, and most of the inhabitants live in hamlets of two, three, or perhaps six houses each. Our only manufacture is the weaving of cloth and linens.

Ecclesiastical State *.—The church of Carnock appears, by an inscription still legible upon it, to have been built in 1602, by Sir GEORGE BRUCE of CARNOCK, who was one of the Lords of Session, and ancestor of the present Earl of Elgin. It

* It is remarkable, that 3 of the ministers of Carnock were deposed or ejected, yet none of them for any alleged immorality; but all of them for what may be charitably supposed to have been with them *matters of conscience*. One was ejected by Archbishop Sharp in 1662, for refusing to acknowledge the Episcopal form of Church Government and Worship;—another after the Revolution fell a martyr to Episcopacy, by suffering deprivation for not acknowledging King WILLIAM and Queen MARY;—and a third, in the present century, was solemnly deposed by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, for not bearing a part in a violent settlement, to which he had been enjoined by the authority of that Court. This was the famous THOMAS GILLESPIE, afterwards founder of the PRESBYTERY of RELIEF, whose case has long been, and still is reckoned by some, a singular instance of *Presbyterian persecution*.—As the list of clergy can be traced as far back as 1592, it may not be improper to subjoin the whole series.

	Years.
1. From 1592 to 1646, Mr. John Row,	54
2. — 1647 — 1663, Mr. George Belfrage,	16
3. — 1664 — 1679, Mr. L. Schaw,	15
4. — 1679 — 1689, Mr. T. Marshall,	11
5. — 1693 — 1697, Mr. W. Innes,	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
6. — 1699 — 1734, Mr. James Hogg,	34 $\frac{3}{4}$
7. From	

It was last repaired about the year 1772. The church bell bears date 1638, and the pulpit 1674, with this motto, *Sermonem vitæ præbentes*; PHILIPP. ii. 16. The manse, and most of the offices, were built in 1742; and repaired, with some additions in 1781. The stipend, by a decret of augmentation granted in 1792, consists of 7½ chalders of grain*, and 20l. 10s. 0½d. in money, (including communion elements). The glebe consists of 9 acres, which are worth about 10l. a-year; and the manse and offices, garden, and other privileges, may be worth about 12l. Sterling per annum. So that the whole may be estimated at an average of from 105l. to 107l. Sterling a-year; but in the years 1782 and 1783, it was not worth above 103l. The augmentation in whole is about 24l. Sterling. The Reverend Dr. John Erskine of Carnock is patron.

School.—The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is 8l. 6s. 8d. Sterling, beside a free house and yard. He also receives 20s. per annum as session-clerk, with 12s. 6d. for his extraordinary trouble at the Sacrament. The school fees are estimated

7. From 1734 to 1739, Mr. Daniel Hunter,	-	-	-	-	4½
8. — 1741 — 1752, Mr. Thomas Gillespie,	-	-	-	-	10½
9. — 1753 — 1780, Mr. G. Adie,	-	-	-	-	25
10. — 1780 — 1793, Mr. Alexander Thomson,	-	-	-	-	13
Vacancies on different occasions,					—

* Viz. 61 bolls, 1 firloft, 1 peck, 1 lippie and nine 5ths meal; 39 bolls, 3 firlofts, 1 peck, 3 lippies and one 5th bear, and 19 bolls oats.

† The patronage was acquired, together with the estate, from the Earl of Kincardine, about the year 1697, by the late Colonel Erskine, (who died in 1743), the grandfather of the Doctor.

estimated at about 3l. a-year; and the perquisites paid for proclamations of marriages, and registration of baptisms, will amount to 2 guineas more; besides which, he receives a small annuity of 5 merks Scotch, (or 5s. 6⁸/₁₂d. Sterling), from a donation bequeathed to the kirk-session of Carnock, by the Reverend Principal Row, who, being a native of this parish, left this as a small testimony of his regard for the place of his birth. The schoolmaster's whole income may be calculated to amount to 15l. 6s. 8d. Sterling; a sum by far too small, in the present expensive age, to compensate any man of letters and genius, for executing the laborious task of teaching youth.

Poor.---Though the number of poor upon our ordinary list is at present only 15, yet, upon an average of 10 years, it appears to have been not less than 18 annually. To these there are 6 distributions made in the year, besides occasional supplies to others, whose necessities, occasioned by temporary indisposition, or sudden calamities, require charitable aid. For these purposes, there are 4 quarterly distributions made, in February, May, August, and November; besides 2 extraordinary meetings, viz. one about the beginning of the year, and another at one of the occasions of dispensing the Lord's Supper, as that ordinance is celebrated twice a-year in this parish. Sometimes, however, that coincides with one of our quarterly meetings, which is considered by the kirk-session, and several of the *quotas* are increased in proportion. The funds for the support of the poor are as follows:

Three hundred pounds Sterling, lent out at 5 per cent., producing interest annually, amounting to	-	-	-	L. 15 0 0
Weekly collections at church, rate per annum, about	-	-	-	4 4 0
Average dues, paid for the use of the mortcloth,	-	-	-	1 10 0
Annual gratuity, from the principal heritor,				2 2 0
Collections at the two sacramental occasions,				6 18 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
In all,				L. 29 14 5 $\frac{1}{4}$

The total annual income of the poor's funds may, therefore, be stated at 30l., besides occasional donations: though, indeed, we have had no legacies these many years. The annual average of disbursements to the poor, for these last 10 years, has been about 20l. Sterling*.

Heritors.

* The state of this parish, in 1782 and 1783, merits particular attention, as extraordinary exertions were made on these occasions for the support of the poor, who would otherwise have been in very deplorable circumstances. At the desire of several of the proprietors, a meeting was called, on the 31st of December 1782, of the heritors and kirk-session conjunctly, when it was agreed, that an assessment of the 10th part of the valued rent should be levied. This was accordingly done, and 6l. being taken from the poor's funds, and several private voluntary donations added to it, the sum of 30l. Sterling was raised, with which meal was bought at the market price, and sold to the poor at the reduced prices of 1s. per peck for the oat meal, and 8d. per peck for the bear and pease meal. This sale continued for 8 months, from the 18th of January to the 19th of September 1783, when the meal fell to the prices above-mentioned; and, upon calculating the sum total of expenditure, it appeared that about 24l. Sterling had been laid out for that benevolent purpose. . On that occasion, too, the

Heritors and Rents.—There are 7 great proprietors in this parish, who pay stipend and all public burdens; besides one small feuer, who pays only a trifle of vicarage, one large feuer, who pays no stipend, and a great number of others, who have no other property but their houses, and a small spot of ground (often less than an acre) adjoining to each. Their number is, therefore, uncertain and variable. The landed property (including that of the whole of these feuers) may be estimated at about 1100*l.* per annum*. In this sum is included the rent of the session houses on the several estates; and the rents of the gentlemens houses, inhabited or habitable, within the parish, may be computed at 50*l.* more. —The best arable land lets at about 20*s.* per acre; inferior grounds at 10*s.* 12*s.* and 15*s.* Pasture lands let at from 5*s.* to 7*s.* 6*d.* The average rent of farms is about 70*l.* a-year, none of them being very large, few indeed exceeding 100 acres, and some being much less. The size of farms, however, and consequently the rents, are upon the increase; the greater part of the arable land being now enclosed, as both proprietors and tenants seem convinced of the advantage of enclosures.

3 Q 2

Fuel.

the kirk-session were more liberal than usual in their distributions; and our patron and principal heritor evidenced his liberality by giving two Guineas to the poor in May 1782, and three more in December, besides his proportion of the assessment, which amounted to upwards of seven Guineas. By these means, under the blessing of God, the poor of this parish were provided for, and not only prevented from rioting and *mobbing*, but pretty comfortably supported, till the return of plenty superseded any farther demands upon the generosity of the public.

* Landed property has not been very fluctuating in this parish, none having been disposed of within these 20 years, except the estates of *the Clune* and *the Camps*; which, it is said, were sold at about 30 years purchase.

Fuel.—There is a small quantity of moss in the S. E. part of the parish, from which a few peats are dug, but these are solely appropriated to the kindling of fires, coals being the only fuel used in this district, as they abound both in this parish and in the neighbourhood. The average price of great coal is 2s. 6d. for 40 stones, and, for the same quantity of *chows*, or small coal, 1s. 3d. The carriage paid for a single horse cart of coals is 4d. per mile. But here it will be proper to give a particular account of the coal mines on the different estates in this parish.

Blair Colliery.—There are two veins of coal, the one 4 and the other 7 feet thick; both of which have been wrought some years, and are still working. They are of a stoney quality, and emit a very considerable heat when used as house fuel. They are sold at 1s. 3d. per cart (of 40 stones weight), exclusive of carriage. The small coal has been found to answer well for burning lime, and for salt-works. Under these two veins of coal there are other two; the one 2 feet 10 inches, and the other 3 feet thick. The former is a *splint* coal, the latter a *smithy* coal of a good quality. Of these two veins only a small part has yet been wrought, as they are under level. Preparations, however, are now making for working both *.

Merrylees Colliery.—This coal-work is the property of Mr. MUTTER of Annfield, and has been wrought to a considerable extent for these 8 years past. The last lease taken of it was at the rent of 100l. Sterling, and a steam engine was erected for

* On the Blair estate there is also iron stone, both of the *bed* and *ball* kind, but no proper trial has yet been made to ascertain its quality.

for draining it. There are many veins of this coal, several feet thick, partly above level and partly below. It is principally used for drying corn and malt for the mills, for which it seems peculiarly well qualified, as the grain, dried by it, does not receive the smallest tinge, but is rather fairer after the operation than before it. But the most valuable, as well as singular property of this coal, is, that grain or malt dried by it, is proof against the depredations of the weevil, and all other small vermin. And it is even said to be ascertained, by repeated experiments, that if only a part of the grain be dried with this coal, and mixed with other grain, the vermin among the grain not dried with it will be destroyed:—So powerful are its effects in destroying those pernicious animals, without communicating any quality to the corn, in the smallest degree prejudicial to the health of man. On these accounts this coal is of considerable use to maltsters and corn-dealers. When there is a great demand, it is shipped at Torry pier, opposite to Borrowstownness, where vessels are loaded with the greatest dispatch.

Whinny-hill Colliery.—This coal belongs to Sir John Halkett of Pitfirran, and has the same qualities with that of Merrylees, as the two collieries are situated very near each other, and are separated only by a small rivulet, which forms the *march*, or boundary between the two estates. This coal is at present (May 1791) wrought to a considerable extent, and is delivered at Torry pier, and put on ship-board, carriage free, at 30s. per chaldron. Notwithstanding the great abundance of coals, there are no coal waggons in the parish.

Roads.—The situation of this parish is upon the whole advantageous; but the inhabitants labour under one great inconvenience

convenience from the badness of the roads. In summer they are tolerable, but in winter, or during a long course of rainy weather, they are hardly passable, owing to the softness of the soil, and the great number of heavy carriages. It is hoped, however, that this inconvenience will soon be remedied, by a proper application, or reasonable commutation of the statute labour, as well as by the erection of turnpike roads; the advantages of which, being already felt in some of the neighbouring districts, are now more generally acknowledged than formerly.

Inns and Ale-houses.—There are about 10 small inns and ale-houses in the parish, viz. 4 in Carnock, 5 in Cairny-hill, and 1 in Blair. Although these, as well as most other accommodations, and enjoyments in life, are and may be abused to the purposes of intemperance, yet it must be admitted that several houses of this kind are necessary in country parishes, for the convenience of travellers, and the accommodation of the people who come from a distance, to attend public worship on the Sabbath day. Perhaps, however, the number at present in this parish might be diminished, without any great inconvenience, or rather, probably, with advantage to the inhabitants.

Houses and Cottages, &c.—Within these 10 years, about 20 new houses have been built in different parts of the parish. Scarce any have been pulled down, except some cottages belonging to the colliers, who frequently move from one colliery to another; and the habitations being slight and superficial soon go to ruin. Two or three huts, possessed by small tenants, have also become ruinous, but the number of cottages erected within that period greatly counterbalances them;

them; a very considerable number of cottagers, being employed as day-labourers, from the villages of Carnock and Cairny-hill. The employing of cottagers has been found preferable to the hiring of servants, being equally cheap and far less troublesome *. It is a fact, that improvements, prosecuted in this manner, on several of the neighbouring estates, have turned out to good account. And it may be added, that those gentlemen who thus employ the inferior ranks, do the most essential service to their country, by not only beautifying and enriching the ground, but, at the same time, giving encouragement to population and honest industry.

Improvements.—Within these last 16 years there have been planted in the lands of Blair above 130,000 forest trees, partly firs of different kinds, and partly hard wood. There are two parks on Carneil-Hill, in high cultivation, making about 100 acres between them. About five or six bolls of lime (mixed with dung or compost), are used for an acre. In the land of Clune, about 50 or 60 bolls of lime were used for an acre, when first taken in from moor. Lime being plentiful,

* Day-labourers generally get 1s. per day in summer and 10d. in winter, without maintenance. Men servants receive from 6l. to 7l., and women from 2l. 10s. to 3l. Sterling, besides their board. The expence of a common labourer and his family may be estimated at from 15l. to 18l. per annum, which is defrayed by the united industry of the parents and their children, from the time they are able to do any thing. The wages of a day-labourer will be about 14l. Sterling a-year of clear gain, at an average. At hay-making the men get 10d. and the women 7d. Male reapers during harvest get 10d. per day, and females 7d., with their meat. Ditchers get 1s. per day without maintenance.—It may be added, that the wages of tradesmen are in proportion; as house-carpenters get 1s. 2d. per day; masons 1s. 6d. for 9 months, and 1s. the other 3; slaters 3s. in summer and 6d. in winter; and tailors 5d. per day, besides maintenance.

plentiful, there is no demand for marl, though some of the latter has been dug from the moss in the S. E. part of the parish. The farm of Carneil was all enclosed since 1761, and likewise the Clune farm since 1757; the former being done by Mr. Colvill, the present farmer, and the latter by Mr. Chalmers, the late proprietor of these lands.

Language.—That the Gaelic or Erse was the ancient language of this part of the country, is evident from the names of most places in the parish; such as *Carnock, Luscar, Clune, Blair, Pitdenny, Carneil, &c.*; though others, indeed, of later date, are clearly of modern derivation; such as *Bonny-Town, Herd-Hill, Gowk-Hall, Wood-End, &c.* The language now generally spoken in this district, is the broad Scotch dialect, with the Fifeshire accent, which gives some words so peculiar a turn, as to render the speaker almost unintelligible to the natives of a different county.

Eminent Men.—Under this head, we can only enumerate as natives of this parish, or residents in it, the Rev. JOHN ROW, above mentioned, (whose father was minister of it in the beginning and middle of last century, and) who was promoted to be principal of King's College in Aberdeen; and the late Mr. JOHN ERSKINE of Carnock, professor of municipal law in the college of Edinburgh, and author of the larger and lesser *Institutes of the Law of Scotland*. Of Mr. Erskine's abilities we need say nothing. His eminence as a lawyer is universally known. He resided at his house of Newbigging, in this parish, during the summer season, for upwards of 30 years; but at last removed to Cardross, in Monteith, where he died in the year 1767, having, some years before that, purchased considerable property there.

there, which is now possessed by his second son, JAMES ERSKINE, Esq. of Cardross.

Antiquities.—Of these we cannot boast that we have many. There seems to have been a *camp* a little S. from the village of Carnock, upon an eminence, which still retains the name of *Camps*; and probably another, in some remote period, upon *Carneil-hill*. Both seem well adapted for that purpose; the ascent being steep and difficult upon two sides at least, and the prospect of the adjacent country noble and extensive from the summits. Upon opening a cairn upon Carneil-hill, about 20 years ago, there was found an *urn* of earthen ware, containing some small copper coins, but they had no inscription which could be read by those into whose hands they came. There are evidently the remains of a *camp* (probably one of the Roman *Castra stativa*), upon *Craig-Luscar Hill*, in the parish of Dunfermline, adjoining to the N. E. boundary of ours.—We have no *barrows* or *tumuli*, certainly known as artificial. There are indeed some *Knows*, or *small eminences*, as *the Knows of Luscar*, and the *Law Know* adjoining to Carnock. From the name of the last of these, we may be led to believe, that it was a place for assembling the vassals and dependants round their superiors, in the days of the feudal system, that differences might be decided and justice administered. Several of the hamlets preserve some traces of those distracted times in the names they bear, as they seem to indicate *war*, *confusion*, and *noise*.—Among the antiquities of Carnock may also be mentioned an *ancient cross*, in the middle of the northern division of the village. This cross is of a circular form, containing six rounds of stone steps, rising one above another, and gradually diminishing in diameter as they ascend. In the middle grows a venerable *thorn tree*,

which was, even within these few years, covered with leaves and blossoms in summer; but is now much decayed. It is called *the Thorne* in our session records; about the middle of the last century; and is probably about 200 years old.

Ink Craig.—The *Ink Craig* of Carnock, adjoining to the *Dam Dike*, deserves to be mentioned as a curiosity. It produces a liquid, resembling ink, which drops almost constantly from the rock. A chemical analysis was made of this liquid, by the ingenious Dr. Black, when it was found to contain a mixture of coal, flinty earth, and clay.

Stature, Character, and Manner of Living.—The natives of this parish have nothing remarkable in their size or strength: neither are they discriminated from their countrymen by any peculiar qualities of the mind. Their size is generally between 5 and 6 feet; and scarce any one has been known to exceed $6\frac{1}{4}$. A laudable spirit of industry prevails much among the inferior classes. The men are mostly occupied in husbandry, and the women in spinning, sewing, knitting stockings, &c. There are very few who incline to go to sea, though some are engaged at the ports on the Frith. The natives are equally averse to the land service; not above 9 or 10 having enlisted in the army these many years; and of these, 2 or 3 only of late. In point of benevolence, it is but justice to say, that the people of this parish are at least upon a par with their countrymen in the neighbouring districts; and in times of extraordinary scarcity, exertions have been made by many individuals in behalf of the distressed, which did honour to their feelings. The common people
live

live rather too sparingly* ; although there is reason to believe, that, in this, as well as other respects, their manners, customs, dress, &c. have considerably altered within these 50, or even within these last 20 years; and perhaps the extreme, into which some may now be in danger of running, is that of living rather beyond their income, the fatal consequences of which need not be prognosticated. As to crimes, no instance has occurred of any native of Carnock being subjected to a criminal process for these 10 years past. May the virtue, sobriety, industry, and regularity of the inhabitants continue and increase ! Amen !

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* When they work hard, the country people should, in general, take more nourishing diet that at present, and malt liquors instead of spiritous ones.— The prices of provisions in our nearest market, are generally as follows:— beef, 4d. a pound; veal and mutton ditto; lamb, 4½d.; pork, 4d.; (pigs and geese not sold); ducks, 1s. each; chickens, 3½d. or 4d.; (no rabbits); butter, 8d. and 9d.; cheese, 3d. and 4d. Wheat, barley, and oats may be reckoned, at a medium, 1s. per boll under the Mid-Lothian high fiars.

¶ The following list of inhabitants, taken in 1781, omitted in its proper place, may here be subjoined.

Children under 6 years of age,	159	Antiburgher Seceders,	-	143
Males above that age,	- 385	Burgher ditto,	- - -	103
Females,	- - - 366	Members of the Church of Relief,		52
	—	Ditto of the Chapel of Ease, Dun-		
In all,	- - - <u>910</u>	fermline,	- - -	31
Children of the Established		Cameronians,	- - -	2
Church,	- - - 106	Children of Dissenters,	- - -	53
Examinable persons of ditto,	420			—
	—			384
In all,	- - - 526			

NUMBER XLI.

PARISH OF CHAPEL OF GARIOCH.

(County and Synod of Aberdeen—Presbytery of Garioch.)

By the Rev. Mr. JOHN SHAND, Minister.

Name and Erection.

THE ancient name of this parish was *Logie-Durno*, or *Durnoch* †, which signifies a low or hollow place. The church was transferred from Logie Durno, on the N. side of the water of Ury, to its present situation, at the E. end of the hill of Bannochie, early in the 17th century; at which period the parsonage of Fetterneer, lying on the N. side of the river Don, was annexed to the parish, which was then appointed to be called *Chapel of Garioch*, in a decree respecting the stipend obtained about that time. It is the seat of the presbytery of Garioch.

Rivers, Form, Extent, Soil, Climate, &c.—The river Don divides it, on the S. side, from the parish of Kemnay, and is the boundary between them for about 2 miles. The parish is

† Hence, probably, the origin of Dornock in Sutherland, and Dornick in Dumfries-shire,

is of a very irregular figure: Its greatest extent, from N. to S., is about 8 miles; and from E. to W., about 7. The appearance of the country is hilly. The soil is of various qualities; in general, it is very improvable. The air is sufficiently dry and healthy. The W. end of the parish is indeed subjected to frequent showers, from its vicinity to the hill of Bannochie. There are no distempers peculiar to the parish; the most prevalent are fevers and rheumatism. The water of *Ury* runs through the parish for several miles. It abounds with fine trout. Pike is also to be found in some of the pools; but no salmon, excepting in the spawning season.

Woods, Agriculture, and Produce, &c.—Trees of all kinds thrive well; and there are plantations, of considerable extent, on the estates of *Logie, Pittodrie, Balquhain*, and on the lands of *Afforsk*, belonging to Sir Archibald Grant, in the parish. It would be highly beneficial to this part of the country, that trees were more cultivated than they are. A great deal of ground in this parish is fit only for planting. Wood has, of late, become much more scarce in this district than formerly, and has of consequence risen greatly in value. The number of acres is not ascertained. The greater part of the arable land is employed in raising oats and bear. Some of the farms are of considerable extent, and will sow between 50 and 60 bolls of grain. There are few enclosures in the parish, excepting upon the farms in the possession of the proprietors; consequently sown grass or turnips cannot be much cultivated *.

4

Cattle.

* Mr. Halkett of Inveramsay, about 30 years ago, first introduced the culture of turnips and sown grass in this parish; and his example in farming has been successfully followed by many in the neighbourhood. The crop of one field, upon

Cattle.—The cattle produced in this parish is of the common North Country breed. Mr. Leslie of Balquhain, one of the heritors, has introduced the Galloway kind, which are much esteemed, as being hardy, large boned, and well shaped. The number of cattle amounts to 859, of sheep 1550, of horses to 209.

Population.—The population of this parish has decreased above one-third within these 40 years, as will appear from the following table.

POPULATION TABLE of the PARISH of CHAPEL of GARIOCH.

Population, as returned to Dr.		Between 50 and 70,	-	25
Webster in 1755,	-	Average of births,	-	22
Ditto in 1793, males,	- 469	----- marriages,	-	4
females,	- 517	----- deaths,	-	12
	----- 986	Episcopalians,	- - -	16
Decrease,	- 365	Family of Quakers,	- - -	1
Under 10 years of age,	- 199	----- Roman Catholics,	- - -	1
Between 10 and 20,	- 208	Resident heritors,	- - -	4
----- 20 and 50,	- 406	Non-resident ditto,	- - -	6

Church, School, and Poor, &c.—The present church was built early in the 17th century, and repaired about 50 years ago. The manse, and most of the office houses, were built in 1788 and 1789. The present stipend is 49l. 13s. 4d. Sterling in money, 37 bolls of meal, and 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ bolls of bear. The glebe is about 16 acres, some of it very poor ground. Mr. Horn Elphinstone of Logie is patron. There is an Episcopal meeting-house at *Blairdaff*, in this parish.—The schoolmaster's salary

upon the Mains of Inveramsay, which, before Mr. Halkett's improvements, was sold for 30s. is now reckoned worth 60l. Sterling; and the rest of the farm is improved in the same proportion.

salary is 14 bolls 7 pecks of meal, 40 merks as session-clerk. The fees for teaching are, 1s. 6d. for arithmetic and writing, and 2s. for Latin, per quarter. The average number of scholars is about 30. The present schoolmaster is very diligent and attentive.—The number of poor on the roll is 30. The amount of the funds for their support is about 35l. Sterling, which includes collections, penalties, and mortcloth money; also 4l. 15s. of interest, and 10l. Sterling, mortified by Dr. ANDERSON, late of St. Christophers, a native of this parish.

Roads and Inns.—The roads in the parish are made and repaired by the statute labour, which is, in general, very superficially performed. The road from Aberdeen to Inverness passes through the parish for about 7 miles, and is often, in many places, almost impassable. The cross roads are numerous, and very bad in winter.—There are 3 public houses in the parish; 2 of them on the road to Inverness, and the other on the road that leads to the upper part of Garioch.

Disadvantages.—The people seem to be sensible of the benefit of enclosures and green crops; but they labour under many disadvantages. They are far from the means of improvement: Their leases, in general, are short: The millmulture is either an abstracted thirlage, or amount to the 10th or 11th part of the whole produce of the farm. Mr. Horn of Logie, and some others of the heritors, are convinced of the impolicy of this tax, and its hurtful effects upon improvements, and are taking every step in their power to remedy the grievance. Among the disadvantages of the parish, may also be reckoned the difficulty of procuring fuel. A considerable number of the parishioners go to the hill of Bannochie for their peats, by a very steep road, which, in a rainy season,

season, is impassable. The distance from lime is also a great disadvantage. Indications of limestone appear on the estate of Pittodrie; which is to be particularly examined by Colonel Knight the proprietor; and if it succeed upon trial, it will be of great benefit to this part of the country. Personal services are not abolished in this parish, and are considered as a great bar to improvement. The wages of servants are also increased beyond what the tenants can bear. A ploughman, who was formerly satisfied with 3*l.* in the year, now demands 7*l.*; and the wages of other servants have risen in the same proportion.

Antiquities, Echo, &c.—There is a Druidical temple near the old ruinous castle of Balquhain. From this castle there is one of the finest echos in Scotland. There is a large stone, about half a mile W. from the church, which is about 10 feet high above ground, 4 feet broad, and a foot thick; it is called *the Maiden Stone*. There are several curious hieroglyphical figures cut upon it, which are described in Pennant's Tour, and an elegant plate of them given. The bloody battle of Harlaw * was fought in this parish.

NUM-

* This battle was fought in the year 1411, between Alexander Earl of Marr, who commanded the royal army, and Donald Lord of the Isles. It proved fatal to a great number of the nobility and gentry of that age, being obstinately contended on both sides. Buchanan says, that night separated the combatants, rather wearied with fighting, than from any idea that either had gained the battle; for when each army reviewed the number of their slain, they considered themselves as vanquished. In this battle, more men of rank and fame lost their lives, than had fallen in any foreign engagement for many years preceding, by which this obscure village was rendered memorable to posterity.

N U M B E R XLII.

PARISH OF INVERKEITHNY.

(County of Banff—Synod of Aberdeen—Presbytery of Turriff.)

By the Rev. Mr. JOHN MILNE, Minister.

Name, Situation, River, and Extent.

A VERY large burn, or rivulet, which comes through the parishes of Drumblade and Forgue, falls into the river Deveron, near the church, from which it is probable the parish derives the name of *Inverkeithny*. The parish is situated on the S. side of the river, and is in the commissariat of Moray. It is in length, along the river side, from 5 to 6 English miles, and between 4 and 5 in breadth.

Produce and Rent.—A considerable quantity of grain is annually raised in the parish. The rent is fully 900l. Sterling.

Fuel.—There is scarcely any thing in the parish, that can be

called *moss* or *peats*. The inhabitants are supplied with peats from the mosses of *Foudland*, in the parish of Forgue, and of *Auchintoul*, in the parish of Marnoch. They also burn a kind of turf, which they get upon the hills. Banff is the nearest sea-port where coals can be got, which is about 12 English miles distant from the church.

Ecclesiastical Matters.—The church and manse are situated in a narrow valley, near the bank of the Deveron. The parish formerly belonged to the Synod of Moray and Presbytery of Huntly. An exchange was made with the parish of Mortlich, which originally was in the Synod of Aberdeen and Presbytery of Turriff, and the minister of Inverkeithny still draws 6s. 8d. Sterling as the feu-duty of a house in Elgin, which has, probably, been one of the stalls in the cathedral at Elgin. There are no dissenters from the Established Church, except a few members of the Episcopal Church of Scotland.

Population.—The population of Inverkeithny has decreased considerably within these 20 years. This has been partly occasioned by the scarcity of fuel, but chiefly by the farmers thinking, from the high prices obtained for cattle and grain, that they had more profit, by cultivating their farms themselves, than by subsetting a considerable part of them, as was formerly done in all the northern parts of Scotland.

The return to Dr. Webster, in the year 1755,

was

571 souls.

The number of souls at present (in 1793) is

460

Decrease,

111

Employments and Character.—There is no village in the parish; but there are tradesmen of different sorts, such as smiths, weavers, wrights, and tailors. All the rest are farmers. The inhabitants are in general an industrious people, in the middle rank of life, and are particularly distinguished, by their paying due respect and attention to the ordinances of religion.

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NUM.

NUMBER XLIII.

PARISH OF ALVES.

(County and Presbytery of Elgin—Synod of Moray.)

By the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM M'BEAN, Minister.



Extent, Surface, Soil, and Climate.

THE parish of Alves is about 5 English miles in length, and nearly the same in breadth. The Moray Frith washes its coast on the N. The face of the country presents a most agreeable mixture of hill and dale; and the plantations lately made by the Earl of Moray, will, in a short time, add not a little to its beauty. The soil is distinguished for its fertility, being generally a deep loam on a clayey bottom; though, in a few places, it is of a lighter quality. From the nature of the soil, the crops are rather late; but from the happy climate of the county of Moray, this is attended with no material inconvenience to the farmer.

Cultivation and Produce.—The tenants are very industrious, and their labours are amply rewarded by excellent crops. For centuries past, they have raised wheat; and, until lately,

a considerable proportion of their rents was paid to the Earl of Moray in that grain. This his Lordship has now converted into money, as the tenants found it more advantageous to cultivate barley: But wheat is still sown, though not to so great an extent. They are now making a rapid progress in the modern style of agriculture. Grass seeds are laid down on a large scale. Beans are planted in drills. Many acres of turnips are sown both in drills, and in the broad cast way, with great success. Potatoes are also raised in very considerable quantities, both by the plough and spade. The general succession of crops is three plowings for barley; the first in autumn, the second, after dunging, in April, and a seed furrow in the beginning of May. The succeeding crop is commonly oats, if grass seeds are not laid down with the barley. Occasionally, grass seeds are laid down with the oats; and, when that is not the case, the following crop is pease, and barley with grass seeds thereafter. The oats, that grow in Alves, are about a fortnight later in ripening than those produced in the neighbourhood, and therefore are in request for seed in the light and sandy grounds in this country, and, on trial, are found to produce an excellent quality of grain, and superior quantity of fodder.

Leases.—It would be of material consequence to the interest, both of proprietors and farmers all over Scotland, but especially in this corner, that long leases were introduced. They would animate the farmers to superior industry and profitable speculation, as they would ascertain to them the fruits of their industry, and prevent their having recourse to exhausting crops, under the apprehension of being soon removed. It is with pleasure that the writer of this article can add, that in this parish, upon Lord Moray's property, there are

are many farms, that have been continued in the possession of the same families for several generations*.

Ploughs, Cattle, &c.—The number of ploughs in this parish may be stated at 115: the number of horses at 560; most of them are of a pretty large size, and so stout, that 2 of them draw a plough. The number of black cattle is about 1100. The cattle are not now so numerous as they were formerly, but considerably increased in size, from their being fed with artificial grasses and turnips. The number of sheep is about 2500. They are of a very small size, excepting a few of the large Bakewell breed.

Prices of Labour.—The price of labour is considerably advanced within these few years. The wages of men servants, employed in husbandry, are from 6l. to 8l. when they live in the family, and 2 pecks of meal in the week when they do not. Women servants have generally from 30s. to 40s. per annum, with some perquisites. The wages paid to reapers, during harvest, are from 18s. to 1l. 10s. They are generally hired for the season, except in those cases when the farmers have cottagers: To cut down their corn is a part of their stated labour; and, for this and other services, the cottagers have a free house and a garden.

Minerals,

* It is a circumstance that deserves particular notice, as it points out what industry and a steady economy can produce, and at the same time proves the laudable fostering care and attention of some proprietors, that a family, of the name of ANDERSON, have occupied a farm in this parish, on the estate of the Earl of Moray, for upwards of 400 years. The present tenant, having produced to the late Earl of Moray receipts for rents as far back as the time of Earl Randolph, obtained from his Lordship a renewal of his lease on the most indulgent terms.

Minerals, Fuel, Inns, &c.—The E. end of the parish abounds with inexhaustible quarries of excellent freestone, very fit for either building or mill-stones.—This parish was once abundantly accommodated with peats for fuel; but the mosses are now almost exhausted, and many of the country people are necessitated to purchase coals.—There is but one inn or public house in the parish. It lies on the county road from Elgin to Forres, which passes through Alves.

Heritors and Rent.—The heritors are, the Earl of Moray; the Earl of Fife; William Brodie of Windyhills, Esq.; Peter Rose Watson of Callfield, Esq.; Miss Brodie of Lethen; John Spence Munro of Kirktown, Esq.; and George Forteath of Newton, Esq.—two of whom only have their residence in the parish. It is not pretended to give an accurate statement of the real rent, as that must depend upon the price of grain; but, at an average, it may be estimated at upwards of 3000l. Sterling per annum. Land, in general, here lets at from 20s. to 30s. per Scotch acre. The rents are paid, partly in money, and partly in grain; that is, oats, at 5 firlots per boll, and barley.

Population *.—By every information, the population of this parish is very considerably diminished. This is still farther confirmed, by comparing the return to Dr. Webster in 1755, which was

1691
with the present population, in 1793,
1111

Which shews an evident decrease †, within these 50

580
Of

* The parish register has been so irregularly kept, that the number of births, marriages, and deaths, for some years past, cannot be ascertained.

† This decrease may be ascribed to two causes, that appear fully adequate to the

Of the present inhabitants, there are,

Under 7 years of age,	-	-	-	-	128
And above that age,	-	-	-	-	983

Church, School, and Poor.—The Earl of Moray is patron of the parish of Alves. A new and substantial church was built in the year 1769. The manse is said to have been built in the year 1690, and has since undergone frequent repairs. The stipend is 80 bolls of barley, 300l. Scotch, with 60 merks for communion elements. The salary of the schoolmaster is 10 bolls of bear, and 33l. 6s. 8d. Scotch. The quarterly payment for reading is 1s., for reading and arithmetic 1s. 6d., and for Latin 2s. The schoolmaster is always session-clerk, for which he has a salary of 1l. 12s. per annum, together with the casual perquisites arising from the registration of baptisms and marriages. In the year 1715, GEORGE DUNCAN, late merchant in Inverness, mortified (sunk) 3000 merks for the benefit of this school; the interest of which is applied to the education of 6 boys, not above 10 years of age, each of them enjoying this for 4 years. These bursars are named by the minister and kirk-session.—The funds, for the support of the poor, arise from the weekly collections, fines from delinquents, mortcloth dues, and some mortifications. The late Rev. Mr. ALEXANDER WATT, who was once incumbent at Alves, and died minister of Forres, mortified the principal sum of 30l. Sterling, for behoof of the poor of this parish. These funds afford a comfortable relief to our poor, who are not very numerous.

Antiquities.

the effects: The scarcity of fuel, arising from the mosses being worn out; and the crofts and small possessions being converted into very extensive farms. This last measure is peculiarly hostile to population, and in the end will appear very much against the best interests of our country at large, as well as the permanent advantage of the proprietors.

Antiquities.—Under the head of antiquities, there is little that deserves notice, but a prodigiously large cairn of stones, in a moor on the N. side of the post or county road, where tradition says a battle was fought; but no circumstances are handed down concerning it. Some Lochaber and Danish axes, of a particular figure, have been dug out of the mofs of Earnside, in the neighbourhood of this cairn. An inscription on a grave-stone in the church-yard, dated in the year 1590, records a very uncommon circumstance. It runs thus: "Here lies ANDERSON of Pittensere, maire of the earldom of Moray, with his wife MARJORY, *while him never displicit.*"

Character of the People.—The people, in general, are very sober and industrious, regular in their attendance upon public worship, and fully equal to their neighbours in point of knowledge and information. They have lately acquired a taste for greater neatness in their houses, furniture and dress, than formerly prevailed.

VOL: XI.

3 T

NUM.

NUMBER XLIV.

PARISH OF WESTERKIRK.

*(County and Synod of Dumfries---Presbytery of Langholm.)**By the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM LITTLE, Minister.**Origin of the Name.*

WESTERKIRK was formerly named WESTERKER. In the writs of the family of GLENDONWYN of that ilk, in the parish, there is a confirmation, by Archibald Earl of Douglas, of a charter, *dilecti nostri Domini Adæ de Glendonwyne, militis, domini ejusdem*, mortifying certain of his lands in the barony of Hawick, for the foundation of a chapel in the parish of *Westerker*, with a suitable maintenance for a chaplain thereto, for the *safety of the souls* of James late Earl of Douglas, and Sir Simon of Glendonwyn, his brother-german* ; also for his own soul, Margaret, his wife, and their children, &c., dated at Glendonwyn, 9th December, and confirmed the penult day of the same month, A. D. 1391. Bartholomew, grandson of the said Sir Adam Glendonwyn, took orders in the church; he was chaplain to the chapel of *Westerker*, but was deprived of his charge, for non-residence, by

* James Earl of Douglas and Sir Simon Glendonwyn, fell in the memorable battle of Otterburn, anno 1398.

by Andrew, bishop of Glasgow, anno 1459*. About a mile from the present church there is a farm, the property of Sir James Johnstone, but which formerly belonged to the family of Glendonwyn, called *Westerker*, from which the parish seems to have got its name; and this conjecture is the more probable, that, on a neck of land between the *Elk* and the *Megget*, and part of the farm of *Westerker*, there are several large whin or moor stones placed in the ground erectly, which are evidently the remains of a Druidical temple. The parish of *Westerker* might, in process of time, be named *Westerkirk*, from the circumstance of its being the most westerly of the five kirks of *Elkdale*, commonly so called, viz. *Cannobie*, *Wauchope*, *Ewes*, *Staplegordone*, and *Westerkirk*; of the last of which the present parish of *Elkdalemuir* was a part, till the year 1703, when it was erected into a separate establishment. The farm of *Westerker*, from which the parish is supposed to have got its name, was probably so called from its vicinity to, and its situation in respect of an ancient building in the neighbourhood. There are vestiges of a castle on the farm of *Crooks*, a great part of which was standing in the memory of many of the present inhabitants. *Caer*, in the Gaelic language, signifies castle, and *Wester-caer*, or *Westerker*, must mean a place to the west of the castle; and the farm of *Westerker* seems to have been so called, because it lies along the W. side of the *Megget*, opposite to, and distant not more than 2 furlongs from the place where the castle formerly stood.

Extent.—The length of the parish, from the N. to the E. extremities, is 9 miles; but as the boundaries on the N. and S. are generally regulated by the water falls, or ridges of the mountains,

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* Baronage of Scotland; vide *Glendonwyn* of that *Ilk*.

tains, its breadth is very irregular. In the S. E. and N. W. where the Esk divides it from the parishes of Langholm and Eskdalemuir, the breadth, at an average, does not exceed 2 miles; whereas between the church, which is nearly in the centre, and the N. W. end of the parish, the breadth, in some places, is little short of its length. Though the length on the S. exceeds, by 2 miles, that on the N. bank of the Esk, yet as Westerkirk extends a great way among the hills to the northward, till it reaches the boundaries of Tiviotdale, two thirds of the parish, or thereabouts, are situated on the N. side of the river. The parish consists of 27,307 acres; but not more, perhaps, than a twentieth part of it arable.

Surface, Soil, and Climate.—The appearance of the country is hilly; and the hills in general are high. Some of them are covered with heath, but they are mostly green and dry, and afford excellent pasture for sheep.—The soil is various; the lower grounds along the banks of the Esk, which are flat, consist in general of a light loam, and produce plentiful crops when under proper management: The soil on the rising grounds is a deep strong loam, interspersed with stones; and the tops of many of the hills are covered with moss.—The climate is not unhealthy, though somewhat moist, as the hills on the S. side of the parish are among the first that intercept the clouds, in their progress northward, from the Irish sea and the Solway Frith.

Rivers.—The *Black Esk*, dividing the parish of Westerkirk on the S. from that of Eskdalemuir on the N., for about a mile in length, falls into the *white Esk* at a place named the *King Pool**, in the neighbourhood of the farm house of Bailiehill.

4

* Tradition relates that one of the Pictish kings was drowned in this pool, in attempting to pass over the ice, from which circumstance it got the name of *King*

hill. From the confluence of the Esks, the river, by a variety of beautiful curves, runs through the parish toward the S. E. for the space of 7 miles, till it reaches Dowglen-cleugh; and then passes along the N. side of the parish, nearly in the same direction, till it reaches a place named *Craig-cleugh*; a rivulet which divides the parish from that of Langholm on the S., as *Dowglen-cleugh* does on the N. side of the Esk. Many burns, or rivulets, fall into the Esk within the bounds of the parish. From the hills on the S. side of the river there are 13, and from those on the N. 9, besides the *Megget* and *Stennis water*. In the S. side of a ridge of mountains, the summits of which are the line of division between the county of Dumfries, in this direction, and that of Roxburgh or Tiviotdale, the *Megget* and *Stennis water* have their sources. They are divided in their courses by a ridge of hills, and fed in their progress, with a variety of streamlets from the neighbouring mountains; and running southward for 6 miles, the *Stennis water*, near a place named *the Crooks*, joins the *Megget*, which passes on in the same direction for about half a mile, and falls into the Esk in the neighbourhood of Wauk-mill. The Esk, the *Megget*, and the *Stennis water* abound with trout; and salmon were also taken in the Esk in great numbers, till the late Dr. Graham of Netherbie built a bay across the river, for the professed purpose of procuring water for working the mills, which he was then erecting in the neighbourhood of Langtoun; but since that time scarcely any salmon get up the Esk, excepting when it happens to be greatly flooded.

Population.—The population has increased nearly one sixth within these 40 years, as appears from the following table:

POPULATION

King Pool, and that his corpse was interred in the top of a neighbouring hill, within the parish of Westerkirk, called *Shawridge*.

POPULATION TABLE of the Parish of WESTERKIRK.

Number of souls in 1755, as returned to Dr.

Webster,	-	-	-	549	
Ditto in 1768*,	{			Examinable persons, 484	} 582
viz. -	{			Children under 7 years	
	{			of age, - - - 83	
	{			Dissenters, - - - 15	
Ditto in 1793,	-	-	-	655	
					73
				Total increase,	106

AGES,			SEXES AND CONDITIONS,		
Under 10 years of age,	-	140	Males,	-	313
Between 10 and 20,	-	110	Females,	-	342
— 20 and 70,	-	382	Married persons,	-	195
— 70 and 80,	-	15	Widowers,	-	16
— 80 and 90,	-	7	Widows,	-	26
Above 100 †,	-	1			

PROFESSIONS ‡.							
Shopkeepers,	2	Cooper,	-	1	Smiths,	-	3
Miller,	-	1	Shoemakers,	-	2	Carpenters,	7
Baker,	-	1	Tailors,	-	8	Weavers,	13

LIST

* This state of the population, in 1768, was taken by the late Mr. SCOTLAND during the course of his visitation.

† This man, according to his own account, is 106 years old, but his name is not on the session record; the probability however is, all circumstances considered, that he is above 100.

‡ In the above list of professions, journeymen and apprentices are included, and they all find sufficient employment in working for the inhabitants, except the weavers, who sometimes make cloth for people who do not reside in the parish.

LIST of BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, and BURIALS, for the last
Nine Years.

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1784,	17	4	7
1785,	15	4	13
1786,	16	5	11
1787,	15	5	11
1788,	22	6	11
1789,	18	7	11
1790,	15	-	18
1791,	16	9	13
1792,	22	8	9
	156	48	104
Ann. average, nearly	17	5	11

Rents and Farms.—The valued rent is 10,808 merks Scotch, the real rent 2570l. 17s. There are 27 farms, besides what one of the heritors retains in his own possession, and what is rented by a miller and a smith, who possess each a few acres.—The rent of one farm is between 400l. and 500l. There are 9 between 100l. and 200l.; the others are all below 100l., and a few of them are under 20l. a-year.

Agriculture, Produce, Cattle, &c.—Considerable improvements have been made in agriculture since the use of carts became general, and especially since the year 1775, when a bridge was thrown over the Esk at Langholm, by which means the tenants have easy access to the lime-kilns in Cannobie. The principal crops are oats, barley, pease, potatoes, sown grass; and wheat has sometimes been cultivated with success. Oats
are

are sown from the beginning of March to the 10th of April; pease in the end of March or beginning of April; barley is sown, and potatoes are planted, from the middle of April to the middle of May; turnips are sown in June, and wheat in the end of August or beginning of September. The harvest commences about the end of August, and is generally concluded about the middle of October. Clover and rye-grass are almost universally sown with barley, and the general rotation is as follows:

Years.

1. Barley with clover and rye-grass.
2. Clover and rye-grass.
3. Oats.
4. Fallow, or turnips, or potatoes.

With the fifth seed time the rotation begins anew, when the land is again sowed with barley, together with clover and rye-grass. Some take two crops of oats after the clover and rye-grass, and others 3; and perhaps the second crop will be better than the first, because it is not so apt to lodge when the season is wet. But in grounds, that are constantly under tillage, especially where the soil is light, this practice is very injurious to the tenant, because it impoverishes the land to such a degree, that it cannot be brought to produce a plentiful crop for several succeeding seasons. There are 69 carts in the parish, and 35 ploughs, which last are generally of the English form. There are 86 horses, 181 cows, with their followers; and a few black cattle are bred for the English market.

Sheep and Wool.—The parish maintains 17,480 sheep, and these are all of the long or white faced kind, now known under

der the name of *the Cheviot breed*. Every farmer disposes of his whole lambs, excepting what he retains for keeping up his stock, *i. e.* he reserves as many of his best ewe lambs, when he sells the others in the month of July, as are equal to what of his flock had died since the Michaelmas preceding, and the number of draught ewes which he intends to dispose of in the September following: At this season, he disposes yearly of some of the oldest and worst of his ewes. The number of draughts that he sells annually, is about a seventh part of the whole; and therefore the oldest of his sheep are not more than 7 years of age. A ewe 8 years old may be expected to bring a better lamb than when she was 4 or 5; but her fleece will be both coarser and lighter, and she be in greater danger of dying during the winter or spring. The lambs and draught ewes are generally sold into Northumberland and Yorkshire. The sheep are salved about Martinmas. A gallon of tar, mixed with a Scotch stone of butter, will salve, of young and old throughout the flock, about 45. One man will salve 20 sheep in a day. Of late years the farmers have been in use to buy tups of the Cheviot breed; and, by this improvement, the value of wool is supposed to be increased at the rate of about 2s. 6d. per stone. Till this season, the price of wool had increased these several years. Some of it sold, last year, as high as 18s. a stone: This year (1793), it is fallen about 5s. a stone. Eight fleeces, at an average, go to a stone.

Bridges and Roads.—There are in the parish, to the great accommodation and safety of travellers, 16 stone bridges. These, however, are mostly built on a small scale; none of them has more than one arch, excepting that which is over the Esk, in the neighbourhood of the church, and consists of 3 arches. This was built about 50 years ago, and at the ex-

pence of the county. Five of the bridges are thrown over burns or rivulets, which fall into the Esk from the hills on the S., and 10 are built over those that come from the mountains on the N. side of the river. There are 2 public roads, which are kept in excellent repair, and run from the S. E. end of the parish; the one along the S., the other along the N. banks of the Esk, for about 6 miles. The road on the S. crosses the river 2 miles above the church, and, on the N. side of the Esk, joins the other, which is continued into the parish of Eskdalemuir. Though some of the bridges were built, and the roads were originally formed, and are still kept in repair, with money collected from the occupiers of land, in lieu of the statute labour, in terms of an act of parliament obtained for this county, yet the public is much indebted, for the convenience of good roads and sufficient bridges, to the benevolent exertions of Sir JAMES JOHNSTONE. From him the proposition first came to throw a bridge over the Esk, at Langholm, by which the inhabitants of Westerkirk have ready access to the lime kills and coal pits of Cannobie; and his attention is unremitted, while he resides in this part of the country, to the reparation of the roads and bridges.

School and Poor.—The schoolmaster's salary is 100*l.* Scotch: The number of scholars, at an average, is about 45 in winter, and 25 in summer. He receives, for teaching English, per quarter, 1*s.* 6*d.*; for writing, 2*s.* 6*d.*; for arithmetic, 3*s.* 6*d.*; and for Latin, 5*s.* As session-clerk and precentor, he has 13*s.* from the session; on every marriage he has 1*s.*, on every baptism 4*d.*, and 3*d.* on every certificate: Besides, he is collector of the assessment for the poor, for which he has 1*l.* 10*s.* a year. The office may be worth about 22*l.* Sterling per annum. The number of *poor* upon the roll at present is 18. The annual amount of the contributions for
their

their relief is 57l. 6s. 4d. Of the above assessment, the session advances 7l. 5s. 5d.; the rest is paid, one half by the heritors, and the other by the tenants. There is a sum of 160l. in stock, the interest of which, at 4 per cent, together with the collections, the use of the mortcloth, and what fines or penalties are exacted from defaulters, enable the session, not only to advance more than an 8th part of the whole annual assessment, but to provide clothing for several of the paupers, and to relieve such individuals as fall into circumstances of distress between the quarterly meetings. The number of poor upon the roll had increased no more than 2 for 10 years preceding Candlemas last, whereas the assessment was nearly doubled.

The number of poor upon the roll in February 1783, was	17
Ditto; in February 1793, -	19

The quarterly assessment, in Feb. 1783, was	£. 7 15 9 ¹ / ₂
Ditto, in Feb. 1793, -	14 6 7

This rapid increase of poor's rates may indeed be somewhat alarming to those by whom the assessment is paid. Trusting to these rates, individuals are not so solicitous, perhaps, as they otherwise would be, to make provision for a time of sickness, a season of dearth, or the indigence of old age; and this mode of providing for the poor may serve to lessen that attention to parents, and that desire to provide for their comfortable subsistence, which are so much the duty of, and so very becoming in children: On the other hand, since this method of maintaining the paupers commenced, the parish has not been much infested with vagrants and sturdy beggars; and the poor being thus provided for, live comfortably at home, and are not reduced to the necessity of wandering up and down the country begging bread.

Heritors, &c.—The property of the parish belongs, at present, to 4 heritors, viz. the Duke of Buccleugh, Sir James Johnstone, Bart. John Johnstone, Esq. and Major Dirom; of whom Sir James Johnstone only resides, and that but occasionally.

Ecclesiastical State.—The manse was rebuilt in 1783, and is in good repair: The kirk in 1788, and it is one of the neatest and best finished country churches in the south of Scotland. The stipend was formerly 70l. 16s. 8d., including 4l. 3s. 4d. for communion elements; but an augmentation of 4 chalders of victual, half meal, half barley, was obtained in February last. The glebe consists of about 19 English acres, which the present incumbent inclosed, and subdivided with stone fences, at an expence of not less than 100l. Besides the glebe, the minister has a right of pasturage for 44 sheep on the neighbouring farm of Hirtonhill.

Prices of Labour, &c.—The wages of a man labourer are 9d. a day without victuals, except when he is employed as a mower, and in the time of harvest, when they are 10d. or when he is engaged in salving sheep, for which he receives 1s. The wages of women are 8d. a day in harvest, with maintenance, and 6d. at other times. The wages of a mason are 2s., and those of a carpenter 1s. 6d. a day, when they find their own victuals. The wages of men servants, who eat in the house, are from 8 to 10 guineas a year; and those of women, from 3l. 10s. to 4 guineas. The shepherds are allowed grafs for a certain number of sheep, as their wages. Some of them have a lesser, others a greater number, according to their skill and the largeness of the flock which they tend; and the wages of some of them of late years, owing to the high

high price of wool, &c. have been little short of 15l. per annum, besides their maintainance.

Minerals, &c.—There is a pit of excellent shell marl* in the farm of *Megdale*, the property of the Duke of Buccleugh. Little of the marl, however, is used, because it cannot be got for money, but must be asked as a favour; and the tenant is naturally averse to the trespass which horses would occasion, by being brought upon his grounds to carry it off; besides the pit is situated in the declivity of a hill, and by no means of easy access. Sir James Johnstone had, for more than 30 years back, been in search of lead in the grounds of Glendinning. In the year 1788, metal was discovered; but, upon trial, it was found to be antimony. *Antimony*, the *subiūm* of the ancients, by the Greeks called *στυμμι*, is found in Hungary, in Germany, in France, in Russia, and in Siberia; but this is the only mine of antimony that has, as yet, been discovered in *Great Britain*. The reason of its modern denomination is referred to *Basil Valentine*, a German monk, who, as the tradition relates, having thrown some of it to the hogs, observed that, after it had purged them hastily, they immediately fattened; and therefore imagined his fellow monks would be the better for a like dose. The experiment, however, succeeded so ill, that they all died of it; and the medicine was henceforward called *antimoine*, *antimonk* †. Of the mines in the

* About 50 years ago, one of the tenants of Glendinning ‡ manured part of his arable land with marl from this pit. His neighbour did not make the experiment; and that part of the field on which the marl was laid, is distinguished from the other, even to this day, by producing a more luxuriant crop.

† Johnson's Dictionary; vide *Antimony*.

‡ This place, in former times, was named Glendonwyn, and has been already mentioned.

the grounds of Glendinning, Sir James Johnstone retains two fourth shares. He has let one fourth share to Captain Cochran, and another to Mr. Tait. The company has built a smelting house in the neighbourhood of the mines, in which the ore is manufactured. It is made into *sulphurated antimony*, and *regulus of antimony*. When the ore is beaten small, and washed, it is put into an earthen pot, the bottom of which is perforated with a number of holes. This pot is let into the mouth of another, which serves as a receiver. They are then put into the furnace; and several sets of this apparatus are commonly worked at once. The fluid antimony passes through the holes into the undermost pot, while the unfusible matters remain in the uppermost: What is found in the undermost pot, when the process is finished, is called *sulphurated antimony*.

Regulus of antimony is prepared in the following manner. The ore, when beaten small and washed, is put into a crucible, and, along with it, a certain preparation of iron, and an alkaline flux: the crucible is then placed in a furnace; and the iron having a greater affinity to the sulphur, than the sulphur has to the ore, separates the one from the other, making the sulphur swim on the top of the fluid metal: The matter in the crucible, when sufficiently heated, is poured into a cast iron cone, from which it is taken when cooled, and then the sulphur readily separates from the metal. The metal is again beaten into small pieces, put a second time into a crucible in the furnace, and melted, with a mixture of antimony and an alkaline flux; it is then poured into a vessel of a conical shape, from which it is taken, when cooled, having the form of a large sugar loaf, and a fine starry surface. Its texture is full of little shining veins, or threads, like needles, and is brittle as glass. *Regulus of antimony* is a common ingredient in speculums, in bell metal, in types for printing, &c.

The

The sulphurated antimony is sold at 42l., the regulus of antimony at 80l. per ton.

Miners, Village, &c.—There are 40 people, exclusive of an overseer, employed at present in the mines, and in preparing the antimony. A miner's wages are from 23l. to 26l. a year, and, as such, he enjoys many other advantages. The company has built a village, which is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Megget, and named *James' Town*, in which every miner is provided with a comfortable lodging for himself and his family, at a moderate rent: He has grafs for a cow, during the summer, for which he pays no more than 20s., and 10s. for coarse hay for her provision in the winter; and may have as much land as he has occasion for, at the rate of 10s. per acre, for cultivating cabbages and potatoes. A storehouse is built by the company, in which they mean to lay up grain when the prices are low, and sell it out to the workmen, at all times, even in a season of dearth and scarcity, at the rate at which it was purchased. The miners are at work only 6 hours a-day; and, to encourage them to read, a present was, some months ago, made them in books, by the company, to the value of 15l.; and these, with others, which the workmen have since been able to purchase, amount at present to 120 volumes. To render the situation of the miners as comfortable as possible, the company has built a school-house, for the purpose of having their children educated; has granted considerable advantages to the teacher, and purposes to give 10l. per annum, to which each of the workmen is to add 1s. a quarter, as a fund for the relief of such individuals among them, as may be disqualified for following their employment by sickness and old age. We wish success to this undertaking. The mining company not only finds employment to many individuals, but has done an essential service to the

the public, by making an excellent road, along the E. side of Megget, between James' Town and Waulk-Mill; and, in the line of this road, which is three miles and a half, has built 4 stone bridges, of one arch each.

Eminent Men, &c.—The present family of Westerhall are all natives of the parish; and they have distinguished themselves much, and are well known in the world. Mr. PULTENEY, who married the heiress of Bath, is one of *this* family, as was the late Governor JOHNSTONE, whose bravery as an officer, and whose information and eloquence as a senator, are sufficiently known, and will long be remembered. Here, too, are deposited his remains, over which, and many of his ancestors, John Johnstone of Alva, Esq. has erected a very elegant *mausoleum*. This is a piece of excellent architecture, and must have cost 700l. or thereabout. The parish gave birth also to Commodore PASLEY, who at this instant commands the first division of the van squadron of Lord Howe's fleet, as it lies in line of battle at Torbay.

Antiquities.—Besides the remains of the Druidical temple above mentioned, vestiges of encampments may be traced on the tops of several of the hills in the N. W. end of the parish. These seem to have been out stations of the Roman camp, which bears the name of *Castle-o'er*, in the S. end of the parish of Eskdalemuir; and there are others along the banks of the Esk, which were probably formed as part of a chain of communication between Castle-o'er and the camp at Netherbie, in the neighbourhood of Langtown. There is a great number of *burians* in the parish. These are all of a circular form, and are from 36 to 50 yards diameter*. On the

* They are supposed by some to be remains of Pictish encampments; others think

On the farm of Enzieholm, there are the remains of an old fortification, of a triangular form. It has the appearance of great antiquity, and has undoubtedly been a place of very considerable strength; but it is so much fallen into ruins, that no probable conjecture can now be formed, either of the time when it was built, or by whom it was possessed. There are vestiges of an old tower, or castle, at Glendinning, and the remains of another at Westerhall.

Wood.—About 50 years ago, the parish was much better stored with wood than it is now. From the S. E. end of it, however, to about a mile beyond the church, there is a considerable quantity of natural wood along the banks of the Esk, and several thriving plantations on the estates of Craigs, Dowglen and Westerhall; at the last of which places, there are many very venerable ashes and plane trees.

Diseases.—There are no diseases peculiar to the parish. The *rheumatism* and *tuberculous phthisis* are the most prevalent. The practice of *inoculation* has, for many years, been very general, and very successful.

think that they were places of strength, into which the inhabitants collected their cattle, when alarmed with a visitation from the English Borderers; and many are of opinion that they were formed for the purpose of protecting the cattle, during the night, from the ravages of wild beasts, when this country was mostly covered with wood. The last of these suppositions seems to receive some countenance from the following circumstances, that there is a *burian* on almost every farm, and that its situation, in general, is on the first piece of dry or rising ground that is to be met with in the neighbourhood of the farm-stead, especially when such a situation is rendered the more inaccessible, by the bank of the river, or some other adjoining precipice.

Wild Animals.—There are hares, rabbits, and some foxes in the parish. We have the *swallow*, the wood-cock, the *cuckoo*, and other migratory birds, in their seasons. Partridges have not been so numerous for some years as they formerly were. The *moor-cock* and *hen* are natives, and in considerable numbers; but the black-cock is seldom to be met with.

Fuel.—Peat was the only fuel formerly in use; but as moss is no-where to be found in any considerable quantity, except on the tops of the hills, (and is therefore of difficult access), and as peats cannot be properly got in rainy seasons, and especially as a road for carts is now opened into the parish of Canobie, where *coals* are worked, these are become part of the fuel used in almost every family.

Prices of Grain.—The price of grain was remarkably high last season. Oatmeal sold at 2s. 8d. a stone, of 17½ lbs.; yet none that the writer knows of were in danger of perishing for want. The meal is now selling at 2s. the stone, and the price is expected to be still lower, as there has not been, perhaps, in the memory of man, a more plentiful crop of oats and barley, in this part of the country, than the present, which, within the bounds of the parish, is now [October 21.] almost gathered in, and in excellent order.

Character, &c.—The inhabitants of Westerkirk have long been remarked for decency and regularity of conduct. They are, in general, religious without superstition, and charitable without ostentation, and temperate almost without exception. None of the poor are reduced to the necessity of begging bread: in what they receive from the parish, and what they can

can earn, they have a comfortable subsistence ; and many of the tenants are men of very considerable property. The dissenters, of all denominations, do not amount to more than 10. There are 4 ale-houses in the parish ; but these are little frequented ; nor do those who keep them depend much on the profits of this employment for the support of their families.

PARISH OF NEWTON.

3 X 2

NUM-

Of the above number there are			
Under 8 years of age,	Males.	Females.	Total.
147	150	297	
410	428	838	
557	578	1135	
In all,	557	1135	

NUMBER XLV.

PARISH OF NEWTON.

(County of Edinburgh—Presbytery of Dalkeith—Synod of
Lothian and Tweeddale.)

By JOHN MAIN, D. D. Minister.

Population.

ACCORDING to Dr. Webster's report, the number of
souls in this parish, in the year 1755, was - 1199
By an exact list, taken in June last (1793), it was
found to be reduced to - - - 1135

Hence there is a decrease of - - - 64

Of the above number there are	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 8 years of age, - -	147	150	297
Above that period of life, -	410	428	838
In all, - -	557	578	1135

The

The number of families is,	-	-	-	239
Annual average of baptisms for the last 10 years,	-	-	-	43
_____ marriages *,	-	-	-	10

Proprietors.—There are 4 heritors in the parish; the Duke of Buccleugh, the Earl of Wemyss, Mr. Wauchope of Edmonstone, and his eldest son.

Ecclesiastical State.—Mr. Wauchope is patron of the parish. The stipend, which consists [of money and grain, including 100 merks Scotch, as the interest of mortified money, and the allowance for communion elements, may be reckoned, at an average about 106l. per annum. The glebe consists of 7 acres, 1 rood, and 31 falls of good arable land, lying very conveniently round the manse, and all lately inclosed with a hedge, by the present incumbent. The church was built in the year 1742, and is situated very nearly in the centre, no part of which can be said to be more than a mile and a half distant from it. The manse was built in the year 1749, and stands within less than half a mile of the church, towards the E.

School.—The schoolmaster's salary is 100l. Scotch. The number of scholars, at an average of 10 years, amounts to 48; and the whole of his income, including the salary, school dues, and the emoluments of the session clerk's office, may be reckoned, at an average of that period, no more than 24l. per annum.

Poor.

* No regular register of funerals has been kept for some time past. They can only be collected from the treasurer's accounts, who charges himself with the dues of the *mortcloths*, which he has received. This account must have been, for some time past, very deficient, owing to a circumstance, which will be explained afterwards, as the explanation may be useful to other parishes.

Poor.—The average of stated pensioners on the poor's roll, for the last 10 years, is 14. The expenditure on these, including occasional supplies to others, and the salaries of session clerk, precentor, beadle, synod and presbytery clerks, and presbytery officer, amounts, at an average, to 42l. per annum. The money at present in the kirk treasurer's hands, is a mere trifle. The poor, however, have been, hitherto, maintained pretty decently, by the funds arising from the weekly collections, and from the use of the parish mortcloths, without having recourse to any assessment for that purpose, though not without the necessity of frequent encroachments on the very small capital in the treasurer's hands.

Charitable Societies and Mortcloths.—The body of *colliers*, in this parish have been in use to keep what they call a *box*, from which they allow an aliment, or support, to such of the contributors as are laid aside from work by sickness. This, no doubt, afforded a temporary relief to the parish funds. But when the contributor dies, there is no provision made for the widow and family, who must, consequently, fall a burden on these funds. They purchased, some years ago, from this stock, a set of mortcloths, the use of which was given, *gratis*, to the contributors. The body of *carters*, who have a fund of the same kind, within these 2 or 3 years, followed their example. As the great body of the parish consists of these two descriptions of people, the kirk-session foresaw, that this practice, if allowed to continue, would soon go nearly to extinguish altogether the funds arising from the use of the parish mortcloths. They communicated their ideas on this circumstance to the heritors of the parish, who unanimously agreed to concur with the kirk-session in trying the point of law on this subject, and to defray the whole expence that should be incurred on this occasion. The neighbouring parish of Liberton,

ton, who were in the same situation, joined in the process. Accordingly, a decree of the Court of Session, dated November 30th 1792, was obtained, "strictly prohibiting the use of any " but the parish mortcloths." Notwithstanding this decision in their favour, the kirk-session, in consideration of that degree of relief which they were sensible the parish funds derived from these boxes, by maintaining decently such of the contributors as may be laid aside, by accident or disease, were willing to grant them some indulgence. Accordingly, after having obtained the full consent of all the heritors, they agreed to allow them the use of their own mortcloths for the space of 20 years, by which time their present mortcloths may be supposed to be worn out; on condition that, at every time any of them are used, they pay to the kirk treasurer, for the benefit of the poor, the moderate sum of 4s.; it being expressly understood, that this indulgence shall continue only during the continuance of that aid which they have been accustomed to give to the parish funds; but, that the moment any of these boxes are given up, and consequently that aid is withdrawn, this indulgence shall be at an end; and the kirk-session, in that event, are determined immediately to avail themselves of the right which they now possess, by virtue of this decree.

Collieries.—Coal works have been very long carried on here. The following state of the seams of coal is given from the best authority: There are no less than 19 different seams that run through this parish, stretching nearly N. and S. Six of these seams are termed *flat*, because they lie in a horizontal position, and make but a small angle with the horizon; dipping to the eastward, 1 in 10, and sometimes 1 in 15 or 20 feet. The other 13 are called *edge seams*, owing to the position in which they stand, running down from the earth's surface in a perpendicular direction, and making an angle of near 90 degrees with the

the horizon. These seams vary in their thicknesses. The thickest of the flat seams are about 4 feet, and the thinnest about $2\frac{1}{2}$. The thickest of the edge seams are about 9 or 10 feet, and the thinnest about 2. All of these seams have been already wrought in part; some of them probably 200 years ago; several of them by levels taken from the sea, and others by levels from the lowest parts of these lands. Some of the flat seams, which are of the best quality, have been wrought of late, and are still working by fire engines, and other machinery, 26 fathoms perpendicular depth below the sea. There still remain to be wrought a great quantity of these seams; which, if ever attempted in any future period, will require very powerful fire engines to drain the water from them, and consequently a great outlay of money, before these coals can be brought to market.

Wages and Character.—The business of a collier seems to be a very lucrative one. Each of them may earn 18s. or 20s. per week. It is however matter of much regret, that very few instances are known, of such as are so attentive as to save any thing at all. On the contrary, it is the heavy complaint of all the coal-masters, that a collier will work none, so long as he has any money in his pocket. This is the real reason of the scarcity of that article, which was so deeply and universally felt during the course of last winter.

Antiquities.—The only antiquity here, that deserves to be taken notice of, is a very high ridge, of a circular form, and of considerable extent, which evidently appears to be altogether artificial. The people of the country have always called it “*The Kaim*,” a corruption, it is supposed, of the word *Camp*. If it is the remains of a camp, it could not be a Roman one, as it is well known that their camps were of a square form.

NUM.

NUMBER XLVI.

PARISH OF ROBERTON.

(Counties of Selkirk and Roxburgh—Presbytery of Selkirk—
Synod of Merse and Teviotdale.)

By the Rev. Mr. JAMES HAY, Minister.

Situation, Extent, Rivers, Lakes, and Fish.

THE parish of Robertson, in the presbytery of Selkirk, lies in the western extremities of the shires of Roxburgh and Selkirk, where they march with the county of Dumfries. It is estimated about thirteen miles in length, and six in breadth.—The water of *Borthwick*, running to the E. from the high grounds, where the shires of Selkirk and Dumfries meet, divides the parish into two parts, nearly equal. The water, *Ale*, flowing from a beautiful circular lake, of nearly 2 miles in circumference, in the N. W. quarter of the parish, holds, while in it, a course nearly parallel to the Borthwick, from which it is about 2 miles distant.—Besides Alemuir Loch, there are several smaller lakes, in which there is abundance of fine perch and pike; and in one there is to be found an excellent red trout, much resembling

ling that of Lochleven. The waters, Borthwick and Ale, augmented in their course by a great number of rivulets, abound with trouts of the best quality ; but it is only in the spawning season that they are visited by salmon.

Game, Woods, and Mosses. The diversion of shooting may here be as much enjoyed as that of angling, as there is plenty of all the common kinds of game.—That the part of this parish lying in the shire of Selkirk, was within the bounds of the royal forest, appears from the valuation of the land. The valuations, in proportion to present rents, are uniformly higher in Selkirk-shire than in Roxburgh-shire. At present, there is but little wood in the parish: In a few years the banks of the Borthwick will be more covered, as some proprietors are at present rearing considerable plantations.—Mosses are numerous ; almost every farm has its particular moss. The minister has the privilege of casting peats, by a yearly rotation, in no less than 5 of them. The marl, found in some of these mosses already drained, is of the best shell kind ; and has, for many years, been profitably used. Peats vary much in quality in the different mosses.

Surface and Soil.—The parish is hilly ; but there is no hill of extraordinary magnitude or height in it. From the Borthwick and the Ale, the land rises by a gentle ascent. The lower grounds are in a state of cultivation, and there are some spots of planting along the Borthwick ; the higher grounds are employed in pasturage ; the summits between the Ale on the N., and the Teviot on the S., are, in part, mossy, but generally covered with grass or heath ; and those spots, only, where mosses are wrought, appear black. Grass is predominant ; and the general appearance of the parish, to the eye, is that of grassy hills.—The soil, locally varying, is, in general,

general, of good quality. The greatest part, even of the higher grounds, is of a hard gravelly, or rocky bottom. In the highest and western part of the parish, there is a considerable proportion of wet and boggy land. From land, which has a southern exposure, has been drained, or is naturally dry, crops have been raised as early, and as good, as from lands many miles lower down the country. The peculiar fitness of the soil, for the pasturage of sheep, is evinced by their reputation in the country for soundness, for carcase, and for wool.

Climate and Diseases, &c.—The situation of the parish, nearly central between the E. and W. seas, sufficiently indicates the nature of the climate*—Though this parish appears level, when viewed from heights, greatly inferior to the Ettrick hills on the N., and those of Liddisdale on the S; yet it is so high, as always to intercept some portion of the moisture of those heavy clouds, which are so often seen attracted to either or to both of these quarters. The autumnal rains are particularly violent, and sometimes of long duration. In the months of November and December, they are accompanied with such boisterous winds, that only a few houses can perfectly exclude the waters of the western tempest. There are instances of houses, built with lime, and judged sufficient, through which these rains force their way every winter. The noxious effects of a damp atmosphere were formerly prevented by the copious use of spirits, and now by better houses and clothing; but flannel is little, if ever, used by the labouring people, among whom rheumatism is a general complaint,

3 Y 2

almost

* At BRANXHOLM, in the immediate vicinity, $\frac{1}{3}$ more rain falls than at Dalkeith; and $\frac{1}{3}$ more at Langholm, 18 miles W. of Branxholm, than at it. *Vide Edin. Phil. Transf. Vol. I.*

almost invariably accompanying the decline of life. Unless the weather be tempestuous, the labours of the field are never interrupted, on account of a casual, though heavy rain. Notwithstanding the great moisture of the climate, to which the labouring inhabitants are exposed, they are healthy, robust, and generally reach a good old age. No instances of rare longevity occur; but there were recent, and there are existing examples of great vigour and activity, in persons who have seen fourscore years.

Produce and Cultivation.—All the ordinary kinds of grain, and sometimes wheat, are raised in the parish, but it is thought not in proportion to the consumption. The mode of culture has, of late, been greatly reformed by the introduction of green crops, grass seeds, and especially the judicious use of marl. There is, perhaps, too great a proportion of the arable land still kept in tillage; but this is a mistake, which is becoming every year more obvious, and will soon be corrected. Much of the land is fit for the growth of flax; but its culture must be neglected, as unproductive, till a flax mill be erected somewhere in the neighbourhood. It is for the breeding and feeding of sheep, that the soil and climate are best adapted, and to which, accordingly, the chief attention of the inhabitants is directed. The sheep pasture has been greatly meliorated, by the burning of heath, draining of wet lands, and use of marl*.

Proprietors and Rent.—There are 11 heritors; 4 of whom have houses, and generally reside in the parish. One mansion-house,

* For breed, management, &c. of sheep, crops, rates of wages, prices of provisions, &c. see Statistical Account of the parish of Hawick, Vol. VIII. Num. 32. Hawick is the market town of this district.

house, formerly the seat of an ancient family, is falling into ruins. The valued rent is 10,950*l.* Scotch ; the present actual rent exceeds 3000*l.* Sterling.

Cattle.—The number of cattle is computed to be, as under:

18,000 sheep, 358 black cattle, 127 horses.

Produce.—There are 358 bolls of grain yearly sown, and 95 packs of wool annually fold.

Fuel.—Peats are the principal fuel, and are reckoned as dear as coals from Lothian or Northumberland, a distance of 30 miles. The convenience of this species of fuel, its being near at hand, and procured at a season, when servants upon farms could not be otherwise so profitably employed, give it the preference ; and cottagers, living near mosses, make it a business, through the year, to carry peats from the distance of 8, and even sometimes 14 miles, to Hawick ; where they are sold, at the rate of from 3*s.* to 4*s.* the single cart load, and from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* the back load.

Roads.—The expence of fuel is heightened by the badness of the roads. The principal road in the parish, and the most direct one from Dumfries, &c. to the towns of Hawick, Selkirk, &c. is along the Borthwick, but is made only half way up this parish, and not even formed where it enters that of Wilton. The gentlemen of Dumfries-shire have carried this line of road nearly to the confines of their own county ; and it is to be regretted, that they have not been seconded by proprietors of land in the counties on the E., in a measure of such obvious importance. The heritors of Roberton are at present improving, at a great expence, their part of this road,
and

and forming some others. The road money, for the Roxburgh-shire part of this parish, is levied by an assessment of from 7s. to 10s. on the 100l. Scotch of valued rent: For that in Selkirk-shire, by the statute labour.

Ecclesiastical State.—Roberton is a modern parish. *Hassendean*, the old one, about 9 miles lower down the country, was annexed to Minto and Wilton. This was erected from parts of the parishes of Hawick, Selkirk, Wilton, and Hassendean. The suppression of Hassendean, and erection of Roberton, took place about the year 1682. The decret is supposed to be lost. The kirk bears the inscription 1695 *. In 1789, it received a complete repair. About the same time the manse was also repaired; and in 1791, new offices were built. The King is patron. The stipend, (including communion elements), consists of 77l. money, 14 bolls meal, and 12 bolls barley, Teviotdale measure. The grain, and part of the money, is paid from lands, in what was the old parish of Hassendean; and, before an augmentation was obtained in 1788, by the present incumbent, there was no more than 9l. paid to him, and 3l. to the minister of Wilton, from lands within the present cure, upon the supposition, that the remaining part of the old stipend, paid in money, by the Duke of Buccleugh, was for his lands in Hassendean; and this is the probable supposition.

School.

* There are to be traced the remains of 2 chapels; in one of which, on the other side of the Borthwick, and opposite to the present kirk, curates from Hassendean were wont to officiate. The church-yard of the other, (which is said to have belonged to the diocese of Galloway), at Borthwick Brae, about 2 miles farther up the same water, is still used as the principal burying ground in this neighbourhood. GRIEVE and POTT are the names most frequent on the tombstones.

School.—A new school-house was built in 1790. The schoolmaster has the ordinary legal salary, some perquisites as session-clerk and precentor, and a small fee from the heritors, for uplifting and distributing the poor's money. Till something be done by the public to render country schoolmasters more comfortable and independent, the important office which they bear, cannot be filled by men of education, of talents, and consequence enough to benefit society, as they, with some encouragement, might do.

Poor.—The average number of poor on the roll, young and old, may be about 32. They are supplied by collections made in the kirk and quarterly assessments. A sum is always kept in hand for occasional supplies; and, if such fund should fail, the minister has hitherto had the approbation of the heritors for taking credit, till such fund be replaced by the collections, or by a new assessment. The expence of their maintenance for the current year is 124l.

Population.—The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755,
 was - - - - - 651
 The number of inhabitants, of all ages, in 1791, and
 1792, was - - - - - 629
 Decrease *, - - - - - 22

Of

* Formerly there were several hamlets, of which no vestiges now remain. The greatest collection of families, in one place, does not exceed 5 or 6. There is no village, and no licensed retailer of spirits in the parish. The expence of rearing houses is the great obstacle to population, and appears to be one cause also of the advanced price of labour. Cottages that fall down are seldom rebuilt.

Of these there are,

<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Married Pairs.</i>	<i>Families.</i>
309	320	85	136

Employments.—Of these families 28 are tenantry; the rest consist of shepherds, hinds, day labourers, and some tradesmen. The number of the latter, owing to the neighbourhood of Hawick, is small. There is not a shoemaker in the parish. The nature of the soil and climate has suggested to herds and labourers the use of a kind of a strong leather shoe, with a wooden sole, shod with iron. This is purchased in the market town, mended at home, and known by the name of *clogs*.

Condition and Character.—The inhabitants, in their several stations, are comfortable and independent; nor are there wanting instances of considerable wealth. They are equally industrious and frugal. There are a good many separatists from the Established Church; Burghers, Antiburghers, and Cameronians; but no Episcopalians or Roman Catholics. The character of separatists and adherents scarce admits of any shade of distinction, unless it be, that the former have the appearance of greater zeal in religious matters than the latter. In other respects, they are much alike. If the Seceders think themselves more religious, those belonging to the Establishment fancy themselves better moral men, and more heartily attached to Government. Happily no party rancour is known, and no religious or political controversies interrupt the exercise of that sympathy to one another in distress, and of that neighbourly and obliging disposition, which are the more striking and distinguishing features of the Christian character.

Antiquities,

Antiquities, Cascade, &c.—There are several remains of encampments and fortifications. One large square encampment, flanked by a rivulet, whose banks are steep, having the Borthwick in front, and artificial ramparts towards the hill, bears to this day the name of *Africa*. Between this, and others of a circular or semicircular form, the *Cat-rail* (of which some vestiges, though with breaks, may still be traced), is supposed to have run *. One of these semicircular encampments, above 2 miles from the square one, and of which it has a distinct view, has, for its diameter, the steep and craggy bank of a rivulet, where there is a beautiful cascade; the fall of water being about 20, and the breadth 6 feet, when the rivulet is in flood.

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NUM.

* See GORDON's *Itin.*

NUMBER XLVII.

PARISH OF TULLIALLAN.

(County of Perth—Presbytery of Dumblane—Synod of Perth and Stirling.)

By the Rev. Mr. DAVID SIMSON, Minister.

Name, Extent, and Erection.

TULLIALLAN, according to those who are acquainted with the Gaelic language, signifies *the beautiful hill*; which name was probably given to it from its appearance, the greatest part of it being a beautiful bank, gently declining to the S. and W., and the rest of it sloping to the N. and N. E. It is generally supposed to be 4 miles from S. to N., and 4 miles from E. to W. It is of an irregular figure, being broader at the two ends than in the middle. Originally, it comprehended the barony of Tulliallan only; but, in 1659, the barony of Kincardine, the lands of Lurg and Sands, and Kellywood, were disjoined from the parish of Culrofs, and annexed to it. The whole parish now contains about 2760 acres.

Soil, Cultivation, and Produce.—The soil is various. It consists of clay, rich loam, sand, and dryfield; all of which lie upon till or rock. About 40 years ago, it was in a state of nature; but, since that period, it has been highly improved; and

and the greatest part of it has been enclosed with stone dikes, or hedges, which last have succeeded amazingly well. As the farmers are diligent in procuring dung from the village of Kincardine, and lime from Lord Elgin's lime quarries, at a considerable expence, and are assiduous in cultivating their farms, they generally have good returns of wheat, barley, oats, beans and pease, potatoes, turnips, and sown grass. Were not the tenants restricted by their leases, the quantity of oats sown would be less than any other grain, owing to the high thirlage. If a tenant carries 11 bolls of oats to the mill, he may lay his account with leaving one behind him as dues; I had almost said 1 in 10; which is very discouraging to the improvement of lands.

River, Climate, and Diseases.—Surrounded by the river *Forth* on the S. W., exposed to a free current of air in this direction, and well sheltered by the elevation of the ground, and the adjacent woods on the N. and E., this parish possesses, at all seasons, a more mild and temperate climate than many other parts of Scotland, in the same latitude. Violent inflammatory diseases, depending on the qualities of the air, are seldom seen here, excepting the croup among infants, which prevails most in cold and damp situations. During the course of the last 20 years, the small pox (the most fatal disease in this district), has been observed to become epidemical every second or third year, often preceded by the chincough, and followed by the measles. The scarlet fever, thrice on one occasion was ushered in with all the symptoms of the malignant sore throat; and the dysentery once in August 1784, which, at its commencement, was, in several instances, fatal. With these exceptions, infectious fevers are very uncommon. Agues, formerly prevalent, have not appeared these many years, owing, in some measure, to the improvements in agriculture,

the general cleanliness, and free ventilation of the houses of many of the inhabitants; who, being in easy circumstances, feel less the evils arising from poverty and extreme want. It is probable, that the mortality of many of the diseases mentioned, has been, of late years, mitigated, by an improved mode of living, a more easy access of the inhabitants to a greater variety of vegetable productions, and a more moderate use of fish, which abound in the river. The small pox has also been greatly alleviated by inoculation. Practitioners of experience affirm it would be more general and successful, if practised by mothers on children, one or two months old; the eruptive fever being of much shorter duration, and the pustules very few in number, at this early period.

Fisheries.—There are above 100 *cruives* in the parish; in which are caught herrings, whittings, haddocks, sparlings, sythe, sprats, cod, skate, with some few salmon and flounders. Of these last, there are 4 different species, called here the *sole*, the *turbot*, the *sand*, and the *bunnock* flounders. The sole and turbot are esteemed the best. The precise value of a *cruive* cannot be ascertained, as it depends on the quantity of fish caught. When the herrings are numerous, it may amount to more than 5l., besides the *tythe*, that is, a tide in the stream. In other years, their gain would scarcely keep them in repair. The average of a *cruive*, in good and bad fishing seasons, is estimated between 40s. and 50s. yearly, besides the *tythe*. When the herring fishery succeeds, it is a great benefit to the place and neighbourhood. These, together with the potatoes, support the poor people for some months in the end of the year.

Colliery and Salt Work.—About 60 years ago, there was an extensive colliery and salt work carried on here. There

is a man living, who knew 42 pikemen, and their bearers, employed in it. The coals, at that time, were either sold to the country, or consumed by the pans; none of them were exported; but after the shipping increased, they carried them to Dundee, Perth, &c. Though there is abundance of coals to work, and a steam engine was erected, nothing has been done for a number of years. There were formerly 35 salt pans in this parish, 14 of which have been in ruins beyond the memory of any man living. Their foundations were lately dug up, and there is not a vestige of them to be seen. About 60 years ago, there were 21 in the parish, 6 at *New Pans*, and 15 at *West Pans*, now called *Kincardine*. The author has known 18 of them working at one time. The proprietor furnished each pan with 36 small cart loads of coals in the week; and for these the salter was obliged to produce 4 draughts of salt, each draught containing 14 firlots of Linlithgow barley measure. The produce of the whole pans, (supposing them to go constantly), was 252 bolls in the week, and 13,104 bolls in the year; which were sold at 48s. the boll, amounting to 2,620l. 16s. But after the duty was laid upon it by act of parliament, it was sold at 2s. the bushel. The wages paid to the salter, were a peck of oatmeal, at 8⁴/₁₂d, the peck, and what salt he had more than his 14 firlots from his draught; and, when cleaning the bucket, pots, &c., he had only 4d. per day. The whole of these pans are in ruins, excepting two, which work but little; for as the coal is not working, the pan wood must be carried from the Alloa collieries to Alloa shore, and from thence to Kincardine, by water, which makes it very dear. The salt is at present selling here at 4s. the bushel. A firlot of salt, taken from the pan, weighs 58 lb. or a bushel and 2 lb. After it hath lain some time in the granary, it will weigh 63 lb. or a bushel and 7 lb.

Village

Village and Markets, &c.—KINCARDINE is a pretty large village on the banks of the Forth, containing 312 houses, substantially built, and are generally finished neatly in the inside. A considerable number of them consist of two, and some of them of three flats. They are mostly covered with tiles, and built upon pan ashes; which, being naturally dry, contributes greatly to the health of the inhabitants. There are two market days in the week, viz. Wednesday and Saturday, which are generally well supplied with provisions. Beef, mutton, veal, and lamb, sell from 3d. to 5d. the lb; butter from 8d. to 10d; and cheese from 3d. to 4d. the lb: fowls, from 1s. to 14d. a piece; a duck at 8d.; a chicken 8d.; eggs from 4d. to 6d. the dozen. There is a post office in the village of Kincardine; and we have two posts from Edinburgh regularly every day in the week, the one by Stirling, and the other by the Queensferry. By the latter, all letters from Fife, Perth, and the North Country, are conveyed. For these last three years, the amount paid into it, by this parish only, was 247l. 10s. 7d.

Roads, Ferry, and Harbour—The roads are extremely bad in winter, in soft weather, though good in summer. The parish affords no materials to make them of, but free-stone and pan ashes, which carriages soon grind to powder. There is a passage boat between Kincardine and *Higgin's Neck*, at present on a very incommodious footing. It is only within 2 hours, before and after flood, that they can pass with a horse; and foot passengers are often obliged, at low water, to wade through mud for 40 yards. The shipmasters here, by a voluntary contribution, have begun to build a pier. If their finances allow them to finish it, it will be a great advantage to those who have occasion to pass here.

Shipping

Shipping and Commerce.—Kincardine is a creek, within the precincts of the custom-house of Alloa*. For these 40 years past, a considerable number of ship carpenters have resided here, who built annually several sloops and brigantines. Vessels of 200 and 300 tons have been built here, for the West India trade, and the Greenland fishery. In 1786, there were 9 vessels upon the stocks at one time; and the number then belonging to this place was 91, and their tonnage 5,461; which is about 200 tons more than what belongs to Alloa, and the whole precincts of that port, at present; and more than half of the tonnage † of Leith in that year. If the distilleries, in this parish and the neighbourhood, had not failed, they would have been considerably increased: But owing to these, and a stagnation of trade that succeeded in this place for two years, their shipping decreased; and, since that period, 24 vessels, amounting to 1859 tons, have been sold or lost. Within these three years, trade has begun to revive, and several vessels have been built. The number of sloops and brigantines belonging to Kincardine, at present, is 75, and their register tonnage 4043. All these, excepting two, are included in the 5261 tons, which, in the Statistical Account of the parish of Alloa, are
said

* In the beginning of this century, there were no shipping of any consequence belonging to it. They had only 5 boats, from 10 to 20 tons burden. These were employed in carrying salt to Leith, and importing from thence wood, and iron, for the use of the pans, and in the lime trade. They went no farther. But after some ship carpenters had come to settle in it, the spirit for ship building prevailed so much, that, in 1740, they had 30 vessels, from 15 to 60 tons burden, amounting to 260 tons. In 1745, several of these were employed in government service. When the coal was working, and the salt pans going, they had abundance of exports; but since these were given up, they have had none. Yet this did not destroy their spirit for trade and ship building; for they had the address and good sense to become carriers to other ports.

† *Vide* Loch's Essay on the Trade, &c. of Scotland, Vol. II. p. 9.

said to belong to that port*. They require about 300 sailors to navigate them. They import a great quantity of wood, iron, flax, and lintseed, from the Baltic and Holland, and barley from England and the Carse of Gowrie, &c.; and they export coals from Alloa, Clackmannan, and the other collieries on the Frith, to Dundee, Perth, Norway and Sweden. Some of them are in the Mediterranean and Levant trade, and one of them has been in government service to the East Indies.

Coast.—At Kincardine there is a very good road-stead, where 100 vessels may ride with safety. The beach where they clean and repair their vessels is hard gravel. From the W. end of the parish to New Pans, the shore is level; and, where the flood ebbs, 400 or 500 acres of fine mud might be taken from the river by a sea dike, and annexed to the land. From New Pans, to the parish of Culrofs, the shore is full of rocks, which are visible when the tide ebbs, but covered when it flows.

Minerals.—This parish abounds with excellent quarries of free-stone, both yellow and white. The quarry of Longannat hath been in great reputation, time immemorial. It is a durable stone, perfectly white, of a small *greek*, and takes on a fine smooth polish. The demand for it has been greater than the quarriers have ever been able to supply. Besides many houses in the neighbourhood, of the first architecture, that have been built out of it, it has been carried by sea to many distant places. The Royal Exchange, Infirmary, and Register Office, in Edinburgh, and one of the churches in Aberdeen, were partly built out of it. And it is reported here, that one of the

* See Vol. VIII. No. XL.

The principal houses of AMSTERDAM, and the Stadt-House of HOLLAND were built out of it *.

Mills.—There are 4 mills in this parish, within 40 yards of each other, built in a most substantial manner; viz. a meal, a barley, a flour, and a threshing mill, all driven by the same water. Little, if any, of that water arises from springs, for there are very few in the parish, but from what falls from the clouds. Before steam engines were invented, the coal machinery on the lands of Kincardine were driven by this water, as they had no rivers nor rivulets by which they could be wrought. To remedy this defect, a strong dike was built between two rising banks, about 40 yards in length, and 22 feet deep, and around all the rising ground, they cast ditches, by which the water, falling from the clouds, might be conducted into what is called the Papermill Dam, which, when full, covers 66 acres, and contains water sufficient to drive the mills, and the coal machinery, for 9 months of the year. They likewise built another dam, which, when full, covers 50 acres. This

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* These two last, perhaps, may be thought disputable; but, to corroborate this assertion, there are still the remains of a long pier, said to be built by a Dutch company, to be seen. About 20 yards of it, nearest to the land, are in a great measure entire. From this pier to low water, they built two stone dikes, some yards distant from one another, in which were erected pullies, by which they hauled out their vessels through the dock formed by the two dikes. This dock was 9 feet deep at high water, but is now almost filled up with mud. Contiguous to it, there are the remains of a large reservoir, built by them, which filled when the tide flowed; and, when it was near ebb, they opened a sluice in the reservoir, of about 9 feet wide, which emptied itself along the pier into the dock, and carried off the mud which the former tide had washed into it. A little west from it, there is another pier (if it may be so called), named the *Royal Exchange Pier*, because at it they loaded their vessels with stones for that building; and at this pier they generally load their vessels at present.

is not so deep as the former, and only contains a quarter of a year's water. The last is often dry in summer, and the other, in a great drought, has not so much water running into it as would fill a half inch pipe.

Distilleries and Cattle.—There are two large distilleries in this place, which feed annually from 170 to 200 cattle. These, when fed, are sold at from 10l. to 15l. each. They employ a great many servants and horses, besides what they hire. Their spirits go to the Fife, Edinburgh, and Glasgow markets. They import barley from England, Carse of Gowrie, &c., besides what they purchase in the neighbourhood.

Manufactures.—No manufactures, excepting ship building, which has been carried on successively for above 50 years past, have been introduced into Kincardine, until within these two years, that two companies for tambouring have settled in it, who employ about 50 girls each, and 18 looms. The other mechanics are employed in working to the people of the parish.

Houses.—In 1740 there were 224 houses in the parish. Of these 51 have been pulled down, and the ground they occupied annexed to farms. The number of houses now standing, that were built before the year 1740, are - - 98
 Rebuilt since that period, - - - 75
 New houses built since 1740, - - - 299
 Total number of houses, - - - 472

Population.—If we may judge of the former number of inhabitants by the number of houses, they would not amount, 50 years ago, to one half of what they are at present. And, indeed,

indeed, from Dr. Webster's report, the number appears to have been nearly doubled within that period.

The number of souls at present (1793), in the parish, is	2430
In the year 1755, it was only	1321
Increase,	1109

The marriages, births*, and deaths†, as recorded in the parish register, for the last 10 years, are as follows:

Anno	MARRIAGES.	BIRTHS.	DEATHS.
1780	6	65	72
1781	18	68	49
1782	28	56	45
1783	18	74	59
1784	24	71	69
1785	38	81	48
1786	32	70	69
1787	21	81	99
1788	27	88	55
1789	10	66	35
Total,	222	720	600
Annual average,	22 ² / ₁₀	72	60

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Proprietors

* Thomas Scotland, a shoemaker in Kincardine, has had 13 children by one wife, 10 of whom were at 5 births successively.

† An exact account of the births and deaths is not to be expected in this place; for several of the Seceders do not registrate their children's births, and several sailors are lost or die at sea.

Proprietors and Rent.—There are 7 heritors in the parish, all of whom are non-resident, except two, whose property does not amount to 50 acres. The valuation of the landed property is 2589l. 9s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Scotch.

Ecclesiastical State.—There are two clergymen in the parish, the minister of the Established Church, and of the Burgher Seceders. The number of their hearers, and of the other sectaries, are as under :

Members of the Established Church,	-	2040
Burgher Seceders,	- - - -	370
Antiburgher ditto,	- - - -	16
Seceders from these,	- - - -	2
Anabaptists,	- - - -	2
In all,	- - - -	2430

The church was formerly built about a mile farther north than it is at present, and was very small, being only 36 feet in length, 16 in breadth, and 8 feet in height. The present church is built half an English mile from the shore, upon a rising ground, overlooking the village of Kincardine, which lies between it and the Forth. It was built in 1675 ; and, were it not for its Gothic windows, would be taken for a modern edifice. It appears, from the parish records, that though the heritors built the church, they did not *seat it*. This the kirk-session, in order to accommodate the people, did, out of the poor's funds ; and afterwards, to reimburse those funds, sold them to the parishoners ; which they, their heirs, and assignees, possess to this day. A seat, holding 5 persons, that was then sold for 4s., now sells for 5l.

JAMES

JAMES ERSKINE, of Cardross, Esq. is patron. The manse is situated a little N. of the church, is surrounded with trees in full growth, and has a most delightful prospect of the adjacent country and the windings of the Forth. It was built about the beginning of this century, and covered with heath, until 1747, when $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet were added to its height, and covered with grey slate. It was repaired in 1790. The stipend is, a glebe of about 4 acres of ground, including the garden, and the stance of the manse and offices; 1l. 13s. 4d. for grafs, 2 chalders of meal, 1 chalders of barley, 4l. 13s. 4d. in money, and 3l. 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

Schools and Poor.—There is a school, with a school-house and garden. The salary is 5l. 7s. 2d.; and the dues of registrations, &c. are about 6l. These, together with the school fees, which are considerably higher than any in the neighbourhood, may amount to 50l. a year, exclusive of the house and garden. There are two private schools in the parish. The parish funds, which are inadequate for supplying the poor, arise from a yearly voluntary donation from one of the heritors of

tors of	-	-	-	-	-	L. 3	3	0
Interest of money lent,	-	-	-	-	-	5	18	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Average of collections, mortcloth, and proclamations of marriages, for 4 years,	-	-	-	-	-	54	16	$3\frac{6}{12}$
Total yearly income,	-	-	-	-	-	L. 63	17	$10\frac{2}{12}$

Prices of Labour.—The wages of an ordinary man servant in the year, are from 6l. to 8l. with his meat, or $8\frac{1}{2}$ bolls of meal, with 6d. for milk, in the week: Those of a woman servant are from 50s. to 3l. a year, with their meat. A man for

for reaping gets 1s., with 2 glasses of whisky in the day; and a woman 10d., with 2 glasses of whisky. Others give the same wages but no whisky. Those who hire for the whole harvest, give to a man 15s. and 10 pecks of meal; and to a woman 10s. and 7 pecks of meal. Day labourers get 1s., ship carpenters 1s. 8d. per day, and double wages when employed in tide work, with an allowance of drink; masons and house carpenters 1s. 8d.; tailors 8d. with their meat; mowers of grass 1s. 6d. per day, or so much per acre.

Plantations.—Colonel Erskine of Carnock beautified his estate of Tulliallan very much; for besides the large plantations of firs which he made, and which have thriven so well that many of them have been cut, there was not a kail-yard, or any ditch by which water was conducted, but he planted. He ornamented the roads, by planting, on each side, rows of trees, consisting of oak, ash, beech, elm, plane, and hornbeam. They have grown so well, that they are fit for ship building, and other purposes. The present Mr. Erskine of Cardross has also planted many acres with fir, oak, and other barren wood, which are thriving well. He has now hardly any ground to plant but what was lately cut.

Antiquities.—There are no remarkable old buildings in the parish, excepting the castle of Tulliallan, which formerly belonged to the Blackadders, who were knights baronets. It stands upon a small rising ground, about half a mile from the Forth. Nothing of it remains but the walls, and the arch over the ground flat, which consists of three rooms. Two of the rooms have an octogan pillar standing in the middle, of about 5 feet 4 inches in circumference, supporting the arch. It appears to have been a place of strength, as it was surrounded
with

with a ditch, part of which is visible.—The Cross of Kincardine is a long stone, of 18 feet 8 inches in height above ground, and 3 feet 8 inches in circumference. The top of it has the thistle inscribed on the one side, and the arms of the Elgin family on the other *.

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* It was from this barony that that family took the title of Earl of Kincardine. It is reported here, that the cross of Perth and the cross of Kincardine were taken from the quarry of Longannat, and cut out of the stone.

NUMBER XLVIII.

PARISH OF CROY.

(Counties of Nairn and Inverness—Presbytery of Nairn—
Synod of Moray.)

By the Rev. Mr. HUGH CALDER, Minister.

Erection, Names, and Extent.

THIS parish, in its present state, consists of the original parish of CROY, and that of DALCROSS annexed to it. It is not known when this annexation took place; but it is probable that it happened at the Reformation. There are accounts of a vicar of Dalcross in the time of Popery, but none of any clergymen being there since that time†. The names are supposed of French origin: *Croy* from *Croix*, a cross; and *Dalcross*, from *de la Croix*. The extent of it is very great; in length from N. E. to S. W. it is about 16 miles. The breadth is various. In some places it is indented, and almost intersected by

† There is a church-yard or burying ground at Dalcross, but it is little used, and part of the walls of the church still remain; and the minister has a glebe there as well as one at Croy.

by the neighbouring parishes ; and in others, including the waste ground, it is 7 or 8 miles broad.

River, Fish, Woods, Surface, &c.—The river *Nairn*, so called from the aller trees growing on its banks, runs through this parish for about 8 miles ; so *that part* of the parish is included in the district of country called *Strathnairn*. In this river there are salmon and trout of a good quality. To the E. of Kilravock, there is a small salmon fishing, the property of Mrs. Rose of Kilravock. The salmon are sold in the neighbourhood. In the course of 12 years, the price of this article has been raised from 1½d. to 4d. per lb. The banks of the river are well cultivated, or, when they do not admit of cultivation, covered with wood, natural and planted ; which, with other circumstances to be afterwards stated, has a very agreeable appearance, and forms a scene of true rural amenity. The other part of the parish, lying to the N. and N. W. of the Nairn, is almost one continued ridge* from one end of the parish to the other. As it consists almost entirely of waste moor ground, with small spots of land indifferently cultivated, the appearance is rather bleak and disagreeable.

* On this ridge, and near the middle of it, on the side towards the Nairn, was fought the famous battle of Culloden, memorable for the complete defeat of the adherents of the house of STUART, in their last attempt to replace that deluded family on the British throne. The circumstances and consequences of that action are so well known, as to render it unnecessary to give any account of them here. Strangers still visit the field of battle, though there is little to be seen on it, excepting the graves of those that fell in the action, which are discerned by the green surface, while the rest of the ground is covered with black heath. Bullets, and fragments of armour, that are picked up by people in the neighbourhood, are anxiously sought after, and carefully preserved, by the virtuosi, as curiosities and valuable relics.

Lake.—There is no running water in the parish that merits notice, excepting the Nairn, already mentioned. There is one lake, called the *Loch of the Clans*; but for what reason it goes by this name is not known. It is about a mile long, but the breadth is inconsiderable. There are no fish in it, excepting some pike, which are said to be so voracious and destructive, as to prevent any other fish from breeding there.

Soil *.—The soil of this parish, as might be reasonably expected, from the great extent of it, is various. In general, that on the sides of the Nairn is good, and, when well cultivated, produces good crops of all species of grain. In some small spots of the rest of the parish, the soil is likewise good; but the far greater part of it is rather poor and thin, on a cold hard bottom, producing indifferent crops, which suffer greatly when the harvest is late or wet.

Population.—The population of this parish appears to have decreased considerably during the last 30 or 40 years.

The number of souls, as returned to Dr. Webster, in				
the year 1755, was	-	-	-	1901
The total number of young and old at present (1793)				
in the parish, is only	-	-	-	1552
So that the decrease is not less than			-	349

By comparing the report of Doctors Dick and Hyndman, given in to the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge,

* With respect to the climate, air, prices of labour and provisions, as well as the character and manners of the people, and a variety of other articles, there is so very little difference between this parish and the neighbouring ones, of which the accounts have already been published, that it is unnecessary to discuss them here.

Knowledge, in the year 1759, with a list taken in the year 1774, the decrease, during that period, appears to have been still greater: For in that report the number of examinable persons was stated at - - - - - 1560

which, adding the usual proportion of one 4th for children under 7 years of age, - - - - - 390

makes the total number, in 1759, - - - - - 1950

The number, in 1774, was only - - - - - 1425

Hence there appears a decrease of - - - - - 525

By comparing the annual averages of births †, too, at different periods, the decrease appears equally conspicuous. The average, for 5 years, from 1759 to 1763, inclusive, *Decrease.*

was - - - - - 53

Ditto, from 1771 to 1775, inclusive, was - - - - - 46 7

And, during the 5 last years, it is reduced to 41 5

Total average decrease of births per annum, - - - - - 12

which is nearly one fourth less within these 35 years. No satisfactory reason can be assigned for this great and rapid diminution of the population. It is attributed, in some measure, to the improvement and enlargement of several farms, by which the number, both of occupiers and servants, has been greatly reduced. Of late, some young men have been in the practice of going to the South as labourers. But both these causes conjoined, could not have produced the effect

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above

† It has not been the practice in this parish to keep a register of marriages and deaths, and therefore no exact account can be given of them; but it is supposed that the average of the former may be about 9, and of the latter about 30.

above stated. It is probable that many families have left the parish, (though by reason of the extent of it, they have not been taken notice of,) in expectation of bettering their condition in other places.

Agriculture.—The great body of the people are employed in agriculture. The farms are of various sizes; some pretty large, of 40l. and 50l. rent; but the far greater part of them are below 20l., and some of them inconsiderable crofts, lately brought into culture from the moor, and threatening to return to their former state. The gentlemen, both proprietors and farmers, cultivate their lands in the more approved manner practised in the South, by fallowing and liming, and by sowing grass, and raising green crops. They use likewise horses and cattle of a large size, and have implements, as ploughs, carts, harrows, &c. of a proportionably good quality. But the common tenants, who occupy the far greater part of the parish, have horses and cattle of a diminutive size, and implements equally indifferent. Their crops of course are proportionably poor.

Employments.—There are in the parish artificers or tradesmen of the different crafts, as masons, carpenters, millers, blacksmiths, weavers, tailors, shoemakers, &c. who are employed by the other inhabitants. But as most of these tradesmen have more or less land, which they cultivate, and on which they depend for part of their living, it would not be easy, in some cases, to determine to which profession they belong.

Disadvantages.—The people, in general, appear satisfied with their condition, though they labour under great disadvantages, chiefly from the causes already stated, namely, the unfavour-

able quality of the foil on the one hand, and their bad treatment of it on the other. It is much to be regretted, that they cannot be prevailed upon to adopt a preferable mode of farming. Indeed most of them are so poor, as to be scarcely able to labour their lands in the ordinary manner; but such as are in better circumstances are as averse to improvements, as their poorer neighbours. Though they have plenty of stones for making enclosures, most of the fields are quite open; and though there are inexhaustible quarries of lime-stone on the sides of the Nairn, and plenty of fuel for burning it, yet none of it is made use of, excepting by one proprietor, whose great improvements shall be stated under the subsequent article.

State of Property, Rent, &c.—This parish is the property of ten heritors; all of whom have land likewise in other parishes. Only 4 of these reside in the parish. One resides at Kilravock, the seat of Rose of Kilravock, one of the most ancient and respectable families in this country. Here is an old tower, said to be built in 1460, and an elegant modern house, on a rock, hanging over and washed by the Nairn. There are at this place gardens laid out with great taste; orchards, stocked with fruit trees of various kinds; woods of considerable extent, both natural and planted: All which make this the most beautiful place in this part of the country. A little above Kilravock, lies Holme, the seat of Mr. Rose of Holme. It is a neat mansion-house, beautifully situated on the banks of the river, with some natural wood and planting by it. And above that again, is Cantray the seat of David Davidson, Esq., who has built a neat commodious house there, with suitable office houses. He has been remarkably active and successful in improving his estate, by cultivating and planting large tracts of waste moor ground; by making substantial regular fences; by liming his lands, sowing grass, and adopting the other

other approved methods of farming, that have been used with success in the south of Scotland; so that *his property* has a quite different appearance from what it had about 25 years ago, when he came to the possession of it. He has built, at his own expence, an excellent bridge on the river, a little below his house, which is a public benefit. The valued rent of the parish is 2961l. 16s. 4d. Scotch. The real rent is not known, but is supposed to be about 2300l. Sterling, estimating the grain at the ordinary prices of the country. Part of the rent is paid in grain, oat-meal and barley, but most of it in money.

Ecclesiastical Matters.—The families of Kilravock and Calder are vice-patrons of the parish. The stipend is 80 bolls of grain, and 500 merks Scotch in money, with 50 merks for communion elements. There are two glebes, as already mentioned. Both the church and manse have been built about 25 years ago, have been repaired since that time, and are at present in pretty good condition. The district called *the Leys*, almost detached from the rest of the parish, is in use, on account of its great distance from the church, to have preaching once a month during summer and autumn. But as there is neither house nor church there, when the weather is unfavourable, both minister and congregation find great inconvenience, by being in the open air. There are in this parish no dissenters from the Established Church, excepting 3 or 4 of the Episcopal persuasion, who nevertheless commonly attend the church,

Schools.—There is a parochial school situated near the church. The salary of the schoolmaster, is a chaldar of grain, allocated on, and paid by the tenants, in proportion to the extent of their farms. This, with the school fees (which are the same as in the neighbouring parishes), and the perquisites be-
longing

longing to the office of session clerk, make the whole provision for the schoolmaster, at an average, about 22l. a year. There is likewise, in the parish, a school, on the establishment of the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. The salary annexed to it is 12l. The schoolmaster is furnished with different articles of accommodation, by the heritor and tenants of the lands on which the school is stationed; as a free house, fuel, grafs and straw to a cow, a small garden, &c. The children of the poor are taught at this school *gratis*. Both schools are well attended, as the people are much disposed to give education to their children.

Poor.—There is a great number of poor people in this parish. As it is well supplied with fuel, this is an inducement to them to emigrate to it from other places, where that article is scarce. The number generally on the roll is from 60 to 70. The funds for their provision are the weekly collections in the church, the hire of a mortcloth or pall, used by the parishioners at burials, and the interest of 60l., due to the kirk-session by bond. These funds afford only a small occasional relief to this number. Their chief support arises from the benevolence of their neighbours, who are always ready to relieve the indigent and distressed. There are few travelling beggars belonging to this parish, and no cause for any: But as no effectual measures are taken, in this part of the country, to prevent public begging, this parish, and the neighbouring ones, are visited by many from different and distant parts of the Highlands.

Mills.—Besides common mills, there is within the parish a large handsome flour mill, on the Kilravock property, and another of a lesser size on that of Holme. At these mills, a considerable

considerable quantity of wheat is manufactured, in general, disposed of at Inverness, Fort George, &c. There is also a flax mill where the greatest part of the flax raised in this and the neighbouring parishes, is manufactured, and of which Mr. Rose of Holme is proprietor.

NUM.

NUMBER XLIX.

PARISH OF LAIRG.

(Presbytery of Dornoch—County of Sutherland—Synod of Sutherland and Caithness.)

BY A FRIEND TO STATISTICAL INQUIRIES.

Name, Situation and Extent.

LAIRG, or LARIG, should be written *La ri Leig*; that is, beside or *bordering on the lake*. This definition agrees well with its situation, for almost the whole of the parish lies on the sides, or within sight of *Loch-Shin*. The extent of the parish is 24 miles long, from E. to W.; and the greatest breadth not above 8, including the breadth of *Loch-Shin*, which runs through about 20 miles of the length of the parish.

Soil and Surface.—The soil is various; in a few places a good fertile loam, in others gravelish; and, in many, mossy, very wet and spouty. By far the greatest part of the parish consists of hills, and very extensive tracts of heath. Not a twentieth part of it consists of arable land; nor is there much

of what is called a *kindly*, or sweet grass, but a vast deal of heath and coarse grass.

Climate.—The climate is rainy; but though the air is very damp, there is no distemper peculiar to the parish. The inhabitants, having the greatest abundance of peats, take care to keep a good fire *without*, and, as often as they can get at spiritous liquors, they will kindle a fire *within*; nor do they apprehend more danger to their constitutions from the one than from the other.

River, Fish, Lake, Wood, &c.—There is no river of any note, except the river *Shin*; which, running out of the E. end of the loch of that name, for about a mile, comes upon a most tremendous rock, of about 20 feet high, and runs over it in a prodigious cascade. The old method of killing the salmon of the Shin, (which are, in general, a much larger and coarser fish than any other in Scotland), was by thrusting a long creel or basket in behind the cascade, at the foot of the rock, and every fish that jumped to get up, was sure to fall in the basket, and kill itself by the fall. When the river happened to be very high, a few of the lightest fish would get over the cascade, and make their way to the lake, which was perhaps the circumstance that preserved the breed, the whole run of the water, from the great fall, being so extremely rough and rapid, that there is no sand nor gravel to protect the spawn; but the fishing company have now erected cruives upon the Shin, near the place where it discharges itself into the Kyle of Sutherland.—Loch-Shin is a fine sheet of water, of about 20 miles long, and not above 2 broad. There is a good wood, chiefly birch, on the S. side of it, belonging to Mr. Munro of Pointzfield, and some on the N. side, too, at the place called Shinnels.

Shinness. There is also, at the side of the loch, below Shinness, the end of a large vein of lime-stone.

Population.—Though the face of the parish is very extensive, it is but thinly inhabited. There has been, however, a considerable increase within these 50 years.

In the year 1736, the number of examinable persons was 750

The number of souls at present, of all ages, is - 1350

The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was only - 1010

Increase since 1755, - - - 340

Cattle and Produce.—Cows and horses cannot well be numbered, as the people's whole stock lies in them, excepting a few sheep and goats. They always buy a great deal of grain, the land not producing above 8 months bread for the inhabitants; for it is much more calculated for breeding cattle than for yielding corn. The only crops are, oats, barley, and potatoes, and these in scanty portions, as the land is mostly all let to small tenants, who have neither inclination nor ability to improve their farms,

Rent.—The rent of this, as well as of the parishes in the neighbourhood, is a deep *arcanum*, known only to factors, who (it should seem) think, that if the clergy or the public were let into the secret, they would, by some *legerdemain* or other, deprive them of the handling of it, or their constituents of the use. It is calculated, however, that the gross rent does not exceed 550l. or 600l. Sterling. The proprietors are the Countess of Sutherland, Pointzfield, Achany, and Captain Mathison, wadsetter of Shinness.

Ecclesiastical State.—The living is exactly 800 merks Scotch, paid in money, and a glebe. A new manse is building. Small as the stipend is, it does not all arise from the rents of the parish, 200 merks of it being paid out of the lands of Skibo, in the parish of Dornoch; which is one evidence that the rent-roll of the district is not very great.

Manners and Morals.—Notwithstanding the disadvantage of a rainy climate, surely nothing but that want of industry, which reigns among the inhabitants, could prevent their availing themselves of the lime-stone they have in such abundance, for meliorating their land. Respecting their character, in general, it is not much in its favour, that they seemed to entertain a particular dread of these statistical inquiries, and would not permit the minister of the district to draw up an account of it, as if conscious that it could not turn out much in their favour.

Improvements Suggested.—The greatest improvement, of which this part of the kingdom is capable, (and indeed it is a national concern), is that of making an inland navigation, through this parish, from the E. to the W. sea. It is but 5 computed miles (or about $7\frac{1}{2}$ English), from the end of Loch-Shin to a navigable arm of the Western Ocean. The loch, (or lake), itself is about 18 miles long. It was never fathomed, but is supposed to be very deep. It is joined to another small loch, out of which the river Shin runs, and enters the Moray Frith, an arm of the E. sea. The advantage that would result, from joining the two seas, to the districts in the neighbourhood, and to the public at large, need not be dwelt upon. It would soon be the means of establishing fisheries, manufactures, commerce and industry, over all the neighbourhood. Perhaps it might also prevent the dangerous and circuitous

cuitous navigation through the Pentland Frith. And the natural advantages in its favour are so strong, that the undertakers, it is believed, would be sufficiently indemnified for the expence attending it, by the income that it would produce. Another improvement to be recommended is, that of converting the farms, from a cattle to a sheep stock, for which this parish is particularly well calculated. It would be unnecessary to remove the present possessors for that purpose; for unless they are very stubborn and obstinate indeed, they might easily be prevailed upon to convert their cattle into sheep; and to learn the best modes of managing the new stock, in the acquiring of which, there is no difficulty or witchcraft.

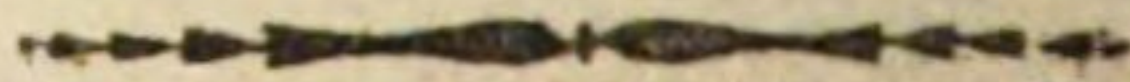
NUM-

NUMBER L.

PARISH OF CALLANDER.

(Presbytery of Dumblane—County of Perth—Synod of Perth
and Stirling.)

By the Rev. Mr. JAMES ROBERTSON, Minister of that
Parish.

*Etymology of the Name.*

THE etymology of Callander is by some understood to be from *Calla-straids*, which is the Gaelic name given to it by the common people: *Calla*, signifying the landing place at the Ferry, where the village is built; and *Straid*, the street or avenue leading from the castle of Callander to the same ferry. By others, it is thought to refer to a more remote period than the existence of the castle, or any avenue in this country, and to be derived from *Caldin-doir*, which is also a Gaelic word, and signifies the *hazle grove*. From the remains of hazle woods in this neighbourhood, and the aptness of this kind of soil to carry hazle and oak, it is probable, that not only this place, but other places, which have a similar name, originally abounded, or do still abound with that timber.

Erection.

Erection, &c.—CALLANDER was formerly divided into two parishes, the one called *Leney*, and the other a chapel dependent on *Inchmahomo*, where the NORIES of that ilk had their family burying place. The remains of both are visible, and people bury at both places. The northern branch of the river, more than a century ago, changed its course, and separated the church of *Leney* from part of its parochial bounds; and the same inundation, in the southern branch, swept away the bridge leading to the chapel; whereupon both parishes were united, and the parish church was built at Callander, below the junction of the two branches, where it now stands.

Extent, Situation, and Surface.—The extent of this parish, from E. to W., is about 16 computed miles; and its breadth, at the E. end about 10 miles. Its form is like a lady's fan half spread. It is situated between $56^{\circ} 15'$ and $21'$ N., and from 1° to $1^{\circ} 24'$ W. of the meridian of Edinburgh, including the greatest extent of the mountains. The appearance of the country on the W. and N., is mountainous. The hills were formerly black, and covered with heath; but, by the introduction of sheep, within these 30 years, they are beginning to lose their shaggy cover, and to assume a more verdant hue. About Callander there is a beautiful valley, in which are situated, not only the villages of *Callander* and *Kilmahog*, but several fine farms, in a plain of some extent, which is formed by the confluence of two considerable branches of the Forth, and covered with rich meadows and fertile arable land. The higher ground is here and there clad with thriving oak woods, and plantations of trees of various kinds; and the bold stupendous rock, above Callander, diversifies the scene, and forms a fine contrast to the valley and meandering links of the river below.

Soil,

Soil, Inclosures, &c.—The soil of this district, in general, is a light gravel, capable of high cultivation, and making an immediate and plentiful return. On the estate of Leney, there is some rich loam, or *haugh land*, probably formed by the sediment of a rivulet which runs through it, the soil being of the same deep red colour with the earth and rocks in the glen above. Agriculture is making rapid progress. The arable ground is mostly inclosed, either with stone walls, or with hedge and ditch, having, in many places about Callander, hedge rows, which gives the country a comfortable and neat appearance *.

Romantic Prospects.—The Trossacks are often visited by persons of taste, who are desirous of seeing nature in her rudest and most unpolished state. They are situated about 10 miles W.

* The paring and burning of moss, and also the drill husbandry, in rearing leguminous crops, was introduced into this country, about 30 years ago, by Mr. Buchanan of Camsmore; who, by means of reading, extensive observation and experience, has not only improved his own estate, but has, by his example, diffused a spirit of cultivation through the country, which it never had before. The late Mr. Buchanan of Leney introduced the trenching of ground in the open fields. He cleared the most rugged and untoward soil, made good arable land, where even the grass was very coarse and scanty. The first two crops paid the expence; and the ground, completely subdued, was fitted for future profit. The farmers have not generally adopted this plan, either owing to their want of capital, the shortness of their leases, or to their having already as much cleared land as they can keep in good order. Some of them, indeed, take in new land with the plough, where they must meet with the same obstructions of stones, and rocks, and bushes every year.

The regulations of the late commissioners of annexed estates, contributed much to improve this country, and to introduce a better style of houses among their farmers and villagers, which has been followed by the country in general.

W. from Callander, and accessible by a carriage road. A traveller going by the S. limb of *Ben-ledi*, and along the sides of two beautiful lakes, has these lakes sometimes concealed from his view; and sometimes they appear in all their extent, having their banks clad with a succession of fields, trees, houses, flocks and herds. One while his road is formed on a bulwark, like the key of a harbour, raised on the very borders of the deep; another while, he travels through darkening woods, whose solemn gloom is scarcely penetrated by a ray of the sun. On the right is the forest of *Glenfinlas*, which is green to the very top, and was once covered with the deer of the kings of Scotland; on his left is *Ben-venu*, which was once a forest of the family of Monteath. *Ben-venu*, is called the *small mountain*, because it is less than *Ben-ledi*, or *Ben-lomond* * from which it is almost equally distant, forming nearly a straight line with both.

When you enter the *Trosachs*, there is such an assemblage of wildness and of rude grandeur, as beggars all description, and fills the mind with the most sublime conceptions. It seems as if a whole mountain had been torn in pieces, and frittered down by a convulsion of the earth; and the huge fragments of rocks, and woods, and hills, scattered in confusion, for two miles, into the E. end, and on the sides of *Loch-Catherine*. The access to the lake is through a narrow pass, of half a mile in length, such as *Aeneas* had in his dreary passage to visit his father's home, "*vastoque immanis hiatus.*" The rocks are of a stupendous height, and seem ready to close above the traveller's head, or to fall down and bury him in their ruins. A huge column of these rocks was, some years ago,

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ago,

* This is a contraction for *Ben-loch-lomin*, the *hill of the lake full of islands*.

ago, torn with thunder, and lies in large blocks very near the road ; which must have been a tremendous scene to passengers at that time. Where there is any foil, their sides are covered with aged weeping birches, which hang down their venerable locks, in waving ringlets, as if to cover the nakedness of the rocks. The sensible horizon is bounded by these weeping birches, on the summit of every hill, through which you see the motion of the clouds, as they shoot across behind them. The end of the lake is nothing but one of the several bays or creeks, which, on all hands, run boldly amidst the rocks and hills.

Travellers, who wish to see all they can of this singular phenomenon, generally sail W. on the S. side of the lake, to the *Rock and Den of the Ghost*, whose dark recesses, from their gloomy appearance, the imagination of superstition conceived to be the habitation of supernatural beings.

In sailing you discover many arms of the lake. Here a bold head-land, where the black rocks dip into unfathomable water ; there, the white sand in the bottom of a bay, bleached for ages by the waves. In walking on the N. side, the road is sometimes cut through the face of the solid rock, which rises upwards of 200 feet perpendicular above the lake : Sometimes the view of the lake is lost ; then it bursts suddenly on the eye ; and a cluster of islands and capes appear, at different distances, which give them an apparent motion of different degrees of velocity, as the spectator rides along the opposite beach : At other times, his road is at the foot of rugged and stupenduous cliffs ; and trees are growing where no earth is to be seen. Every rock has its echo ; every grove is vocal, by the melodious harmony of birds, or by the sweet airs of women and children, gathering filberts, in their season. Down the side of the opposite mountain, after a shower of rain, flow a hundred white streams, which rush with incredible

credible velocity and noise into the lake, and spread their froth upon its surface. On one side, the water eagle sits in majesty, undisturbed, on his well known rock, in sight of his nest on the face of Ben-venu; the heron stalks among the reeds in search of his prey; and the sportive ducks gambol on the waters, or dive below: On the other, the wild goats climb, where they have scarce ground for the soles of their feet; and the wild fowls, perched on trees, or on the pinnacle of a rock, look down with composed defiance at man*. In a word, both by land and water, there are so many turnings and windings, so many heights and hollows, so many glens, and capes, and bays, that one cannot advance 20 yards without having his prospect changed, by the continual appearance of new objects, while others are constantly retiring out of sight. This scene is closed by a west view of the lake, for several miles, having its sides lined with alternate clumps of wood and arable fields, and the smoke rising in spiral columns through the air, from villages which are concealed by the intervening woods; and the prospect is bounded by the towering *Alps* of *Arrochar*, which are chequered with snow, or hide their heads in the clouds. The Hon. Mrs. DRUMMOND of PERTH has erected booths of wicker work, in the most convenient places, for the accommodation of strangers, who visit this wild and picturesque landscape; and the tenants of the next farm are very ready to show the beauties of the place to travellers.

4 D 2

Mountains.

* In one of the defiles of the Trosachs, two or three of the natives met a band of Cromwell's soldiers, and forced them to return, after leaving one of their comrades dead on the spot, whose grave marks the scene of action, and gives name to the pass. In one or other of the chasms of this singular place, there lived, for many years, a distiller of smuggled spirits, who eluded the most diligent search of the officers of the revenue, although they knew perfectly he was there; because a guide could not be bribed to discover his retreat.

Mountains.—BEN-LE-DI, contracted for *Ben-le-dia*, the Hill of God *, is 3009 feet perpendicular in height above the sea †. No other mountain, of half that altitude, intercepts the prospect, from Benledi down the tract of the Forth to the German

* DIA, which is invariably the name of God in Gaelic, is the same word, both in spelling and pronunciation, with the name which the Greeks, in the oblique cases, gave to the Supreme Being; and it is probable, that all the cases were originally from this word. Many other instances of the same kind might be pointed out; but it will come in our way, in these few pages, to find that the words signifying *land*, a *castle* and *harbour*, are the same in Gaelic and in Latin; and the name of the Deity is the same in Gaelic and in Greek. Whether the Celtic language borrows the first from the Romans, and the last from the Greeks, or whether the Romans and Greeks borrowed from the Celtic, (the language of a more ancient people than either, and of a more ancient analogy than their languages), the reader who understands the three languages, is left to judge.

† By reason of the altitude of Benledi, and of its beautiful conical figure, the people of the adjacent country, to a great distance, assembled annually on its top, about the time of the summer solstice, during the Druidical priesthood, to worship the Deity. This assembly seems to have been a provincial or synodical meeting, wherein all the different congregations within the bounds wished to get as near to heaven as they could, to pay their homage to the God of heaven. Tradition says, that this devotional meeting continued three days. The summit of the mountain is smoothed, and free of stones; which seems to be the work of art: But no stones with inscriptions can be found within the vicinity of that place. The Druids were ignorant, it appears, of the use of letters, or extremely shy to commit any part of their creed to writing; but they were fond, in a very high degree, of great and stupenduous monuments, to mark their retreats, and to perpetuate the remembrance of their devotion. They had exactly the idea of Solomon, concerning the immensity of the Supreme Being; "That if the heaven of heavens could not contain him, how much less a house made with hands!" They accounted all space his temple, and all nature his altar; they had no walls but the horizon, and no canopy but the cope of heaven. Their circles of stones, and even the charcoal of the fuel they used in burning sacrifices, are frequent in groves and plains, by the sides of running streams; but they do not seem to have had any images.

Rude figures, indeed, of the human and other species, have been found in this parish, cut out of stone. But these idolatrous relics are more modern than the Druids.

man Ocean. STUIC-A-CHROIN, the *Peak of Rutting**. There has lately been discovered here an iron ring, fixed by a staple to the rock. This ring is said to be very old, and corroded with rust and the lapse of time. Many opinions have been formed concerning the use to which it was applied. There are several accounts of rings found in rocks, and of anchors and shells dug up, in places near the level of the sea: oyster shells are found in abundance, several feet below the surface of the earth, betwixt Callander and Stirling†. *Benvenu* has been already described. *Binean*, and other hills of less note, will be taken notice of afterwards.

Lakes.

Druids. Two of them have been lately discovered, on the farm of Aney, at the chapel of St. Bridget, (a Danish lady of the 13th century, or an Irish lady of later date); probably the saint and her dog, which, from the quality of the stone, seem to have been imported into this country. If the Druid priests and their people assembled on the top of Benledi, there can be little doubt of their having acted in a similar manner in other countries, although the tradition of this practice may be lost. Their *circles* of stones, their veneration for the *sun* and for *fire*, their meetings on the *tops of hills*, and their worshipping in the *open air*, might afford ground for many probable conjectures concerning their ideas of the perfections of the Deity, and the source from which they borrowed their rites and modes of worship, which seem to have had an Asiatic origin; but the brevity necessary in this sketch forbids disquisitions of this nature. We must be contented with giving short hints: And therefore we shall leave the Druids, by only remarking, that the same expression, which the people then used for their place of worship, is still used to this day; as the Highlanders more frequently say, "*Will you go to the stones?*" or "*Have you been at the stones?*" than "*Will you go to, or have you been, at church?*" Mankind, in this instance, as they do in many others, retain the ancient name, while the thing signified by that name is entirely forgotten, by the gradual influence of new habits, new manners, and new modes of thinking.

* *Coir-a-chroin*, the valley of rutting, is just below the peak. *Cóir*, when applied to land, is properly a valley, shut at one end, in the form of an amphitheatre, more or less oblong. *Gleann* is a valley which leads quite through, and is open at both ends. Few other languages, excepting the Gaelic, distinguish these two kinds of valleys, without a circumlocution.

† This circumstance makes it probable, that the ocean, by its constant flux,
forms

Lakes, &c.—The most considerable lake is LOCH-CATHERINE, remarkable at the E. end for the singular picturesque scene already mentioned. *Strath-Gartney*, in which this lake is situated, seems to have borrowed its name from *Gratnach* or *Gretney*, the 2d Earl of Mar, who possessed this tract of land in the year 1114. It was afterwards exchanged by the 11th Earl

forms a mighty current from E. to W., and must, in the course of ages, as Bufon observes, wear away and encroach on the land, in certain places, while it leaves dry ground behind it, where formerly there had been several fathoms of water. But there is little probability of this ring having ever belonged to the sea. It seems rather more probable, that it has been made for tying the dogs of chace, when the hunters went to rest during the night; or for the purpose of securing cattle from straying through the mountains, or to the valleys below, where they would have become the prey of wild beasts, before the country was cleared of woods and of ravenous animals, which lived on blood. We need not be surpris'd at this precaution, because there is little doubt that the original inhabitants, of this part of the island at least, took up their first residence on the tops of hills, however unpromising these habitations may appear now to their posterity. The vestiges of ridges, where the ground has certainly been plowed and sown, are still to be seen on places of considerable altitude, and even on some very high mountains, in the Highlands. Ridges, where the ground has once been arable, may be traced distinctly in the immediate neighbourhood of this ring; and the place has its name from that circumstance. There is a remarkable hill, which is called the *Mountain of Ridges*, in the braes of Glenlochy, on the estate of Breadalbane, where the ridges and furrows are as visible and regular in the heath, as though it carried, at present, a crop of grain. Did our limits admit of it, the inquiry would be curious, to investigate, how a crop could be raised in such elevated situations, where no man, at this day, could think of bringing any grain, that we know of, to maturity. A country covered with wood, is much warmer than after it is cleared and exposed. The degree of cold, to which our naked mountains are now laid open, must be more intense than when the ash and alder covered every valley, oak and fir the skirts of every hill, and the hardy birch climbed up near its brow; and it is difficult to say what hardships a certain kind of oats, whose husk is thick, and whose grain is small, can endure, with what culture it is satisfied, and with what nourishment it is matured.

Earl of Mar, for the estate of *Alloa*, which was then in the possession of the crown, having been forfeited by Baliol, the unsuccessful competitor for the royalty. The next are LOCH-ACHRAY, contracted for *Loch-a-chravy*, i. e. *the Lake of the Field of Devotion*, *Achray* being the name of a farm on its banks, where probably the Druids had a place of worship, and LOCH-VAN-A-CHOIR, *the Lake of the white or fair Valley*. The name of a farm on the south side is *the Fair Valley*. This whiteness is different from that ascribed to *Glen-fin-glass*; and different words are used to denote them with more precision. The former implies the whiteness of daizies, or the fair appearance of the summer's clothing; the latter is descriptive of the bleached whiteness of long winter grass; an accuracy of expression to which many languages are strangers, however much improved. These three lakes form a chain, connected by short intervals, of a most beautiful river, lined with a variety of natural wood, and leading from Callander to the romantic view at the end of Loch-Catherine.

Near the top of *Benledi*, there is a small lake, called LOCHAN-NAN-CORP, *the small Lake of dead Bodies*, which got its name, from a whole company attending a funeral having dropt through the ice, and being drowned, when passing from *Glen-fin-glass* to the chapel of St. Bridget*. On the north side of *Benledi*, lies LOCH-LUB-NAIG, *the crooked or winding Lake* which, in the distance of 4 miles, forms two or three fine sweeps, on the great road to Fort-William. About the middle of this lake, there is a tremendous rock, called CRAIG-NA-CO-HEILG, *the Rock of the Joint Hunting*, which is the boundary between two estates, and a common name given in the Highlands

* The most numerous clan, in this devoted company, were the KESSANACHS, who were formerly a considerable people in this country; but since this disaster befel them, they have dwindled very much away.

lands to such places. Upon hunting days, the two chiefs met there, with their hounds, and followers, hunted about the rock in common, and afterwards separated, each turning away to his own property.

Opposite to this rock, lies the hunting seat of Mr. Bruce of KINNAIRD, a part of the estate of *Kier*, where he retired for several summers, (as much as his conversation and hospitality allowed him to be retired), in order to arrange the notes of his memorable travels to Abyssinia, which will transmit his fame to future ages, when the barking of snarling critics will be heard no more. His knowledge of the scriptures, of the oriental languages and customs, his acquaintance with the whole circle of the liberal arts and sciences, his penetration in knowing human nature, his address in suiting himself to unforeseen and incidental circumstances, together with his fortitude of mind, and strength of constitution, fitted him for an undertaking, which, without all of these endowments, would either have proved abortive, or have been incomplete. The grandeur of this scene suited the state of his mind. There he found the lake of *Demba* in miniature, where the ancient tract of a river is covered by a modern lake, formed by incidental circumstances, as may be seen from the top of any neighbouring hill, in a clear day. Lochlubnaig owes a great part of its present depth to its being choaked, at the E. end, by stones and gravel, which are carried down the face of Benledi, by torrents, in the *Burn of Stank*. And, in the time of floods, the muddy river, which enters Lochlubnaig at the W. end, leaving the circumambient water unfurnished, and stagnant, preserves its yellow colour and stream, in the original tract, for a considerable way down the middle of the lake. Similar appearances take place in the lochs of Balquhiddy, and many others, where bars are formed, and the water thrown back by the like causes.

There

There is an undertaking already begun, at the joint expence of the heritors concerned, for carrying off several feet of water from this lake, by cutting the bar, collected by the burn of *Stank*, and by removing other obstructions; which, if executed by Mr. BUCHANAN of Cambusmore, (to whom the superintendence of the work is committed), with his usual activity and perseverance, will gain much land to himself in his estate of Strathyre, as well as to the other proprietors, where the lake has been increased and turned back upon some of their flat ground. There is no doubt of lakes being often enlarged, and sometimes formed, by torrents falling, at right angles, into rivers which run in narrow valleys; especially where these torrents have a long range, contain a great body of water, and operate upon loose and heavy materials.

Rivers.—All these waters meet at Callander, and form a fine river, which is called the *Teath*, i. e. the warm River. This is the most considerable branch of the Forth, both for the quantity of its water, the straightness of its course to the sea, the clearness of its stream, and the variety and number of its fish. Mr. Guthrie, in his Geographical Grammar, and Mr. Nimmo, in his History of Stirlingshire, call this branch by the name of *Forth*; although the south branch more commonly gets that name. None of our rivers are navigable within the parish.

Mines and Fossils.—There is a beautiful quarry of lime-stone, or rather marble, on the estate of Leney, the property of Mr. Hamilton of Bardowie; the ground of which is a deep blue, with variegated streaks of a pure white. Of this beautiful stone some gentlemen have made *jams*, hearths, and lintels polished smooth as a mirror. It is commonly burnt, and makes a pure and valuable lime; and the fertility of the environs of Callander are very much owing to this stimulus, judiciously

applied. The same vein of lime-stone is discovered in different places, S. W. and N. E. of this parish. The quarry has dipt so much of late, by the uncommon demand for lime, since the farmers began to taste the sweets of improvement, within these last 20 years, that enough of this lime cannot be got to supply the country; so that the farmers find their account in carrying shells from Stirling. The spirit of improvement will surmount many difficulties, when it is once fairly begun; especially when the farmer finds, that the surest way of putting money into his pocket is, to bestow much industry, and some expence in cultivating his ground.

Slates are found in different places of this district. The best are the azure blue slates of Aney, on the property of Mr. Stirling of Kier, which rise of a proper breadth, ring well, stand the carriage, and resist the influence of the weather for any length of time. The inferiority of the slate at Kerinloch, on the property of Mr. M'Nab of M'Nab, is chiefly owing, not to any want of metal, but to their being less beautiful, and smaller in the size. The purple slates at Tombea, the property of Mr. Drummond of Perth, being less durable than the other two kinds, sell at 15s. the 1000, while the others are sold at 21s., especially the first. Very fine flags, of a gray colour, are found at Brackland, on the property of the Earl of Moray, which rise frequently 6 feet square, not above $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 inches thick, and very smooth; yet, from their toughness, they are easily carried to a distance, and used for malt kilns, floors and pavement. Before the discovery of blue slate in this country, these flags were used for covering houses; particularly Doune Castle, built by Murdoch Duke of Albany, besides several others. The same kind of slate is still used in Fife, Strathern, Strathmore, and many other parts of the kingdom*.

There

* There was a lead mine discovered, some years ago, in the N. E. side of Benledi

There are no openings or mouths of volcanoes in this part of the country; yet the most frequent species of rock, about Callander, is a composition, consisting of a great variety of small stones, of different colours and sizes. They are so firmly cemented together, by a brown substance, as hard as stone itself, that, when used in building houses or inclosures, they resist the influence of the weather for ages, without losing a single particle. They defy the edge of the chissel to render them smooth, but admit very well of being dressed with the hammer, only that the cemented stones sometimes fly off from the socket, in which the cement had inclosed them*. Our free-stone, on the other hand, falls away by the cutters, and crumbles down by the alternate influence of frost and thaw, of rain and sunshine, especially the red kind, which is nearest to Callander: But the gray free-stone of this country stands very well.

Whether the *plumb-pudding* stone be the *Scoria* of a vulcano, in a hardened or petrified state, after having gathered a multitude of stones in its progress, while the lava was in fusion, or whether it be a petrification of stones and earth and gravel,

4 E 2

all

Benledi, pointing N. E. and S. W.; which is nearly the direction of all mines. This mine yielded 20s. of silver in every cwt. of ore. But, after trying a variety of experiments, and searching with much care, for veins, over all that side of the mountain, the late commissioners of annexed estates dropt it, because the only vein which had been found, was too small to defray the expence. There was also some ore discovered, many years ago, in Brea-leney, on the farm of Tomascridan, and elsewhere, which is the property of Mr. Drummond of Perth, as well as that side of Benledi where the late discovery was made.

* The learned and ingenious Dr. Anderson of Cotfield, said, when this *plumb-pudding* stone was shown to him, that the rocks in the island of *Lewis* are of the same composition. Swinburn met with it in *Italy*, near *Benevento*; and it is to be met with near *Drummond Castle*, and in other places of this country.

all in one mass, occasioned by the action of some mineral, it is difficult to determine. The rock above Callander is wholly composed of this cemented stone. The vein of it is of no great breadth, but extends in the direction of S. W. and N. E., to the distance of many miles, through lakes, and rivers, and mountains, and valleys. The pebbles, which are inclosed in the cement, do not seem to have undergone the action of fire, but of friction. They are of different colours; some white, some blue, and some gray, and mostly of the roundness of field or water stones. The cement itself has the most calcined appearance, being all of one colour, and uniformly brown. This rock does not stand in columns, in the form of basaltic pillars. The cutters are sometimes horizontal, sometimes dipping, and sometimes perpendicular. The strata are not in the form of prisms: They lie in prodigious flags, of different degrees of thickness: And the highest mountains, on both sides of this vein, are not composed of this kind of stone.

The virtuosi*, who are connoisseurs in fossils, may make of these appearances what they will; but to a plain man, who

It is strange what whims, under the plausible name of THEORIES, will enter into the brains of *Philosophers*. Some will choose to be ridiculous rather than think like other men, or relinquish the distinction of singularity. Some will have every thing to be the effect of water; and others, every thing the effect of fire, as they happen to have a predilection for either of these elements.

It is to be hoped, the next theory will ascribe every thing to the power of air, and that we shall arrive at common sense at last. That great naturalist, the celebrated BUFFON, could, by the magic of his *submarine currents*, make continents and islands emerge from the deep, like so many ducks popping up their heads. Others, since his time, fearing that the world should wear the marks of *old age*, send *Vulcan* on many a long subterraneous journey, that he may blow up his forge wherever gray hairs appear on the face of the earth, to singe the hoary beard of nature, and to cover the chin afresh with the down of youth.

What

is not wedded to a theory, it is very improbable, that this rock is the effect of fire; because the pebbles are unburnt, and retain all their original varieties of colour; because, if they had been picked up by lava in its progress, they could not have been conveyed over such obstructions, as mountains and lakes; because there are no craters in any mountains, in this neighbourhood; because the stones in the hills, on the E. and W., are of a different species; and because, if the rock in question had been in fusion, the stream would have taken the direction of the valley, which it has not done.

All that is requisite farther to be mentioned under this article, is, that this singular kind of *cemented rock*, together with the *slate* and the *lime-stone*, run in three parallel veins, at the distance of a statute mile from each other, not only across this parish, but to a great distance on both sides. The stratum of slate reaches from Luss to Dunkeld, making its appearance above ground at least in 8 different places; the lime-stone, from Buchanan to the parish of Comrie, and appearing in as many places; and the plumb-pudding rock, from Gartmore to Crieff, and visible on the surface almost the whole way. There seems to run parallel to these on the E., a chain of free-stone, from Gartur, through *Ruskie*, *Torry*, and *Drumvaich*, to the vicinity of Crieff. It is probable that these parallel lines of rock may extend much farther, and may be taken notice of by others, although

It is to be hoped, the next theory will ascribe every thing to the power of
What a pity, that these ingenious men don't allow *fire, earth, air and water*, to be the instruments used by a wise and great Artificer, who forms and executes his own plans, and, by unerring and general laws, regulates all the phenomena of nature. Former theorists paid some respect to their MAKER, and to his word. They endeavoured to accommodate their waking dreams to the standard of truth. But bolder spirits have now arisen, who usurp the reins of the universe, invent the baseless fabric of cobweb theories, and expect to make the fleeting delusions of their fancy pass for the established laws of nature.

although they have been no farther traced by the writer of this sketch.

In Scotland, the granite abounds on the W.; and the strata of slate and lime-stone, which are found running in veins through this granite, are generally blue, similar to the colour of the rock, which at last surrounds them, unless they have been formed from it. On the E., the free-stone abounds, with its seams of coal and lime-stone; and the veins of this lime-stone are of a sandy gray, similar to the colour of the free-stone, with which they are in contact. These several strata point westward as they go south*.

Cascade.—In the glen betwixt Brackland and Achinlaich, there is a bridge on the water of Kelty, consisting of 2 sticks, covered with a few branches of trees and some turf, which is abundantly romantic and dangerous. The sticks are laid across the chasm, with their ends resting on the rocks, which project on opposite sides, about 50 feet high, above a deep pool: On the one hand, the white cascade precipitates itself, from a height above the bridge, with a tremendous noise, occasioned by the conflict of the rocks, the narrowness of the passage, and the lofty column of water, whose spray often wets the clothes of passengers. On the other hand, the winding glen, which deepens as it descends, the gloominess of the hanging rocks, of the shading trees, and black pools, strikes with terror and with awe. Yet the people of the adjacent farms, from the mere force of habit, pass and repass with very little concern; although

* Perhaps these, and other chains of rocks, are the *bones* and *sinews* of this globe, which is not only indebted to the ministring powers of attraction, cohesion and gravity, that regulate its motions, and keep the lower materials together, but is firmly girt about by mighty bands; for all the principal mountains of the world run in chains.

though the very act of looking down, when there is a flood in the water, must fill the head of a stranger with a swimming giddiness, owing to the altitude of his situation, the deafening roar of the torrent, the gloomy horror of the glen, and the whirling of the pool below, into which the cascade falls, rolling, tossing, thundering down.

Cove.—There is a large cove in a mountain, on the confines of the parishes of Callander and Kilmadock, where lawless people used to hide themselves, after committing depredations on the adjacent country. The mountain itself is called *Uàb Vòr*, i. e. The *Great Cove*; but the description of it is left to the account of Kilmadock parish.

Climate and Longevity.—The air is salubrious in a very high degree. There are no local distempers; and people live to a very great age. A woman died lately, who was said to have been 101 years of age. A man is still alive, who is 99, and tolerably vigorous. A few years ago, he was able to earn his bread, by driving a horse and cart, and carrying lime to the farmers in the neighbourhood. Several married people have, of late, lived together near 60 years. Some of these are still alive.

Population.—The number of inhabitants in the different farms, was greater about half a century ago than it is now; yet the general population of the parish is daily increasing, owing to the enlargement of particular villages †.

POPULATION

† The following circumstances, which, in a greater or less degree, regulate the policy of all the proprietors of land in Scotland, serve to explain the reason of this change in the *mode* of population. During the prevalence of the feudal system,

POPULATION TABLE of the PARISH of CALLANDER.

The number of souls, at present, (1791), in the parish, is about	-	-	-	-	2100
The village of Callander contains near	-	-	-	-	* 1000
Of these, there are in Kilmahog	-	-	-	-	250
And, in the country, about	-	-	-	-	750
The number of males is	-	-	-	-	1000
———— females	-	-	-	-	1100

AGTS.

system, wherever it took place, the barons valued themselves, and were valued by the state, not by their rental, but by the number of their followers. The object, therefore, of every great man, in those times, was to have his estate crowded with inhabitants; and all his farms were split down into many divisions and subdivisions. But, upon the decline of this system, the farms were generally given to one of the most wealthy of the former tenants, and all the rest compelled to shift for themselves, or to become cottagers.

While the farms in the Highlands continued in tillage, these superior farmers stood in need of the cottagers to cultivate the ground as servants and labourers; and they were allowed a small pendicle and some cattle, besides a little money, in name of wages. But when sheep began to be introduced, these small possessors were swept entirely away, and all the business of the farm was managed by a shepherd or two, and three or four dogs. What remedy had the poor then? None surely, but either to emigrate, or to crowd into villages, or to beg. Those who had money to pay their passage, left their native country, and carried away their riches; some, who had no money, bartered their services, for a number of years, to obtain a passage; and others, of less spirit, the dregs of the people, in this predicament, have remained at home, and have sought an asylum in villages.

This is no ideal picture of the times. That it is more or less the case, in many parts of this kingdom, and that it is daily increasing, is undeniable. But in this part of the country, we feel not the full extent of the calamity. The farms, in this parish, are let at a moderate rent; and the practice, of engrossing many into one, has not hitherto, owing to the good sense of the proprietors, taken place; although it has come very near our doors. Our grass farms, in the mountainous part of the district, are thinly inhabited, but not depopulated, as is the case in the south and west of Scotland.

These causes have, in a greater or less degree, operated in all the grass lands

* In this number the settlement of invalids is included.

AGES.			
Under 10 years of age,	624	Apprentices,	12
From 10 to 20,	261	Household servants,	40
20 to 50,	902	Labouring ditto,	160
50 to 70,	242	Students,	6
70 to 100,	71	Merchants,	6
		Shoemakers,	14
EMPLOYMENTS.		Bakers,	4
Weavers,	20	Tailors,	20
Smiths,	8	Clergyman,	1
Masons,	4	Writer,	1
House carpenters and plough		Surgeon,	1
wrights,	10	Schoolmasters,	3

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COUNTRY

lands in Scotland. But where the people were most crowded, and the landlord had least money, there depopulation has made the widest strides; and the human race has been swept away as with a pestilence. In the south of Scotland there are many towns, to which the people could resort; but in the West Highlands, there are few towns of any consequence. The people, therefore, in that large tract of country, from Kintyre to Ross, who are dispossessed of their farms, have no alternative, but to cross the Atlantic, if they have spirit or wealth; or to travel southward, till they pass the Grampians, if they be poor. The villages of this place, and other villages in similar situations, are filled with those naked and starving crowds of people, who are pouring down every term, for shelter and for bread. And what is to be the fate of villages, crowded by strangers, who have neither money, nor arts, nor industry, I leave to others, who have more political foresight, to determine.

One thing is certain, on this point, that the proprietors, who erect villages on a *proper plan*, in order to keep their countrymen in the kingdom, deserve better of the public, than those who set them adrift, without the least feeling of remorse: Yet the conduct of these humane gentlemen ought to be regulated by a cautious prudence, even in gratifying their feelings of compassion. And a hint may be taken by the wise, from whatever quarter it comes, especially when it is given with sincerity, and has a tendency to do good.

Whenever the population of any town or village exceeds the industry of the inhabitants, from that moment the place must decline. When their consumption is greater than their earnings, when their wants are not supplied by their labour, the stock of the society must decrease, and many undue practices must be substituted for the honest means of procuring subsistence. The *body politic* may be vitiated, as well as the natural body. If its *corpulence* is too much increased, bad humours prey upon the constitution, for want of exercise; habits

COUNTRY and COMPLEXION, &c.		RELIGIOUS OPINIONS.	
Foreigner,	1	Of the Established Church,	2030
Born abroad of British subjects,	4	Seceders,	10
Born in other parishes,	500	Episcopalians,	20
Persons in gentlemen's families,	30	Papists,	40
Mulattoes,	3		
		Total in 1791,	2100
Return to Dr. Webster, in 1755,			1750
Increase,			350
Population in 1772 †,			1700
Ditto in 1787,			1860

Villages.—The proprietors of the villages of CALLANDER and KILMAHOG, are extremely desirous to find employment for their respective people. Kilmahog has not increased so much of late as Callander has done. In the former, the houses are not the property of the possessors; but new houses, of a better construction, are frequently built, and a few acres of ground are given to each family; upon which, with their own industry, they are enabled to live with comfort and with ease. In

of indolence eradicate every desire of exertion; the whole frame is corrupted; despondency ensues; and misery, mingled with contempt, produces the direful effects of despair. Many instances might be mentioned; but every person of observation can quote abundance for himself. It is a wise maxim, therefore, to increase the population of villages, providing the people are rendered industrious; otherwise, it is the greatest curse that can befall a place. Thriving villages afford a ready market for whatever the farmer has to sell; and, in return, provide him with artificers and labourers, and many other conveniences, which he stands in need of; besides, that it is to these nurseries of the human species, properly constituted, we are to look forward now, for men to recruit our army and navy in the hour of danger, while our hardy peasantry are decreasing daily.

† We have no data to ascertain, with accuracy, what the population was 35 years ago. None have emigrated in whole families; but some young men have gone to the West Indies and America as surgeons, clerks and teachers; several artificers have been tempted to go to Glasgow; and servants have gone to the south and east country, by the prospect of high wages.

In the latter, the ground is feued in small lots*; and the proprietor neither wants the means, nor the inclination, to employ the people. The village of Callander is laid down after a regular plan, built substantially with stone and lime, and covered with blue slates. A beautiful river runs between the old and the new part of the village, over which there is a large and convenient bridge, with roads branching out in all directions. A stupendous rock rises on the N. stuck full of firs, and a variety of natural wood, wherever there is any soil between the shelves, which affords protection to the village from the cold. Over this rock occasionally falls down a white stream of water, several hundred feet high; all which gives the place both a picturesque and an elegant appearance.—Including the soldiers settlement, (which consists of houses built by government, for pensioners, after the Peace of Paris, in the year 1763), the number of families in Callander is 190. The mode of giving feus is a rood of ground, or one 4th of an acre, *in property*, upon paying 7l. 10s. of a premium, and 5s. of feu duty yearly, together with an acre of arable ground, a rood of meadow or bog hay, and two cows grafs, in the common pasture, *for rent* and the liberty of moss, common thatch and stones, *free*. Some time ago, no premium was paid; but the feu duty was 6s. 8d., and the property redeemable. This village has increased greatly within these 30 years.

In the village of KILMAHOG, there are about 48 families. The inhabitants have long leases, which encourages them, with the assistance of the proprietor, to erect better houses than formerly. This village is beautifully situated on a plain below the proprietor's mansion. At its W. end, the wood of Leney forms an amphitheatre, which covers the front of the hills; and the tumultuous noise of the cataract at the *Pass* of

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Leney,

* A single ridge of land has not been sold in this parish, for these several years, except the feus in the village of Callander, which may be considered rather as a melioration of an estate than a sale.

Leney, where a whole river tumbles down from precipice to precipice, over a succession of rocks for several hundred yards, adds grandeur to the scene.

Church.—One of the principal ornaments of the beautiful village of Callander, is a new church, which was built about 18 years ago, with a pavilion roof, and a spire over the pediment in the front †. It is happily set down, in the centre of the place, and at a proper distance from the road. The principal expence was defrayed by the late commissioners of annexed estates, and the plan designed by Mr. Baxter, architect. The manse was built in the year 1773; and is all in good order, except the west gable, which the heritors are proposing to repair, before it go into such disorder, as to create a heavy expence. The stipend is 50*l.* in money, 2 chalders of meal, and 1 of bear, besides a glebe of 9 acres, including grass. Mr. Drummond of Perth is patron. The present minister was admitted in 1768, is married, and has a numerous issue*.

Schools.—On one side of the square before the church, the school is situated; where the learned languages, geography, elements of astronomy and perspective, are taught by one master; writing, accounts, drawing, geometry, book-keeping, navigation, and the elements of mathematics, by another. The terms are very moderate. About 80 boys, from different parts of Britain, and from abroad, attend. There is also a society school in the parish.

Poor.—The poor, upon the public roll of the parish, are 30. The funds for assisting to maintain them, are the public collect-

* In this spire there is a fine bell, which is heard at the distance of 12 or 14 miles, in a calm day. It was cast at Glasgow, and purchased by a voluntary subscription, raised among the heritors and principal inhabitants, chiefly by the exertions of the incumbent, whose name is inscribed on it.

† Mr. JAMES MENZIES was the last Episcopal minister, and continued to officiate long after the Revolution. In his time, the records of the parish were lost, by his house taking fire.

collections, and the interest of some lent money, amounting in all to about 40l. yearly. These matters are managed, both before and since the assessment was given up, by the kirk-session. The charity of the inhabitants, in general, and of those in the village of Callander, in particular, is eminent. The heritors did, some years ago, adopt a plan for supporting their own poor, by an equal assessment on the landlord and tenants, according to the valuation; but the people could not be restrained from serving beggars, and some were refractory in paying their proportion of the assessment; so that the plan was dropt.

Proprietors and Rents.—The number of heritors is 9. Three of them are resident. The valued rent is 3,278l. 10s. Scotch; the real rent is 3000l. Sterling, at least. The rent paid for one acre, or for a few acres, especially in the vicinity of the villages of Callander and Kilmahog, is 20s. at an average. But in large farms, and on old leases, some arable land is rented under 5s. the acre, after allowing a proper deduction for the pasture or hill ground. The extent of the farms is from 12l. 100l. to per annum.

Markets.—The greatest fair is held on the 21st of March, or the 10th old style, which is called *Fil-ma-cheffaig*, or the *Festival of St. Kessaig*. There is another great fair on the 16th of May, for black cattle, where the drovers find excellent accommodation for themselves and their cows, and are relieved, by Mr. Drummond of Perth, from imposts and several inconveniences, which are met with in other places, besides various marks of attention which he directs his friends to pay to them. There are 3 smaller fairs for country business.

Horses.—The horses are generally of a middle size, between the Highland ponies, and the heavy draught horses of the Low Country. Their number is 350. They are sure-footed, full of spirit, and can endure incredible fatigue.

Black

Black Cattle.—The breed of black cattle is, in general, inferior in shape and pile to the Argyll-shire or Isle of Sky cows, but superior to those, in the low parts of the north of Scotland. Their number is about 2400. When properly fed, they give plenty of milk, and bring between 5l. and 6l. a piece, in the market.

Sheep and Goats.—About 20 years ago, the farmers began to stock with sheep. At that time, the number of sheep was 1000; now it is 18,000, all of the black-faced kind. They are generally smeared in the beginning of winter. The lambs are often attacked, on the approach of their first winter, by the *braxy*, a disease which seems to be of the nature of the *gastritis*. Goats are not so numerous as formerly.

Wild Quadrupeds and Birds.—Red deer come here for food and shelter in severe winters. Roes breed in our woods. Hares, rabbits, foxes, wild cats, badgers, otters, moles, polecats, weasles, and black martins, are also to be found here. Our domestic, migratory, and water fowls, and birds under the denomination of game, are the same as in other places of this country, as well as our birds of prey.

Fish.—Salmon are found in the Teath, and in the northern branch thereof, all the way to Balquhiddar. They are more rare in the southern branch, owing probably to the large pikes in *Loch Vennachoir* and *Loch Achray*, which are enemies to other fish. Trouts abound in all the lakes and streams of this parish; and pars in every stream. *Whitlings*, which some fishermen say are young salmon, and which others reckon a distinct species of trout, are common in the *Teath*, in July and August. *Char* have been discovered in *Lochlubnaig*; and, when pickled, are found to equal any from the lakes in the north

north of England. They live in the bottom of deep waters, and cannot easily be caught, without the *seine* or net. The English char have two rows of spots upon their sides; those of Loch-Iubnaig only one. They are also found in some other lakes in the neighbourhood. *Pikes* or *jacks* are very numerous in Loch Vennachoir and Loch Achray, in the southern branch of the Teath, and in some stagnant pools near Callander. They grow to a large size, and are frequently caught weighing from 12 lb. to 20 lb., of 16 ounces, each. They may be taken at all seasons with bait, for which par are esteemed best; but they are most esteemed in June, July and August. *Eels* are in all the still waters where the bottom is muddy. *Minnows* are rather scarce, being probably devoured by the larger fish.

Pearls.—In the Teath are found considerable quantities of muscles, which some years ago, afforded great profit to those who fished them, by the pearls they contained, which were sold at high prices. The pearls were esteemed in proportion to the glossy fineness of their lustre, their size, and shape. Some of the country people made 100l. in a season, by that employment. This lucrative fishery was soon exhausted; and it will require a considerable time before it can be resumed with profit, because none but the old shells, which are crooked in the shape of a new moon, produce pearls of any value.

Pearl Fishery.—They are fished with a kind of spear, consisting of a long shaft, and shod at the point with two iron spoons, having their mouths inverted; their handles are long and elastic, and joined at the extremity, which is formed into a socket, to receive the shaft. With this machine in his hand, by way of staff, the fisher, being often up to the chin in water, gropes with his feet for the muscles, which are fixed in the mud and sand by one end, presses down the iron spoons upon their

their point; so that by the spring in the handles, they open to receive the muscle, hold it fast, and pull it up to the surface of the water. He has a *pouch* or bag of net work hanging by his side, to carry the muscles till he come ashore, where they are opened. The operation is much easier in shallow water.

Trees.—The oak is the most numerous and the most valuable of our trees. Our oak woods bring, at an average, about 15,000l., at every cutting, to the different proprietors, once in 24 or 25 years. The oak bark is generally sold to the tanners, on the Frith of Forth, at from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d. per stone. Our oak woods have lately been peeled to the ground, and no visible bad consequence has followed that practice; whereas formerly, they were only peeled to the ax or place where the tree is cut. The alder and the ash abound here. We have bird cherry, willows of various kinds, and mountain ash. The bark of the two last is used in tanning leather, along with oak bark. The bark of the latter is a powerful astringent, and is said not to be much inferior to the *Peruvian* bark. Our most numerous and extensive plantations are of Scotch fir, or pine. Although there are whole forests of this species, which grow naturally in the north of Scotland, yet, on the south side of the Tay, few or none are to be found planted by the hand of nature. Larch thrives exceedingly well, and grows much taller than any other timber we have. Spruce firs, silver firs, New-England pines, elms, beeches, walnuts, sweet chefnuts, horse chefnuts, white poplars, balsam poplars, aspens, laburnums and hollies, have been planted here, and thrive well. The laurel (*laurus nobilis*) bears well the severity of the winters, and flowers every year. The shrubs and underwood of this parish are much the same with those around it.

Grain.—In this parish two kinds of oats are cultivated; early oats, which yield less meal; and the late, or old Scotch

oats, which generally yield a boll of meal for every boll of grain. Barley is the most valuable crop raised by the farmers in this district. That which has two rows in the ear is the best grain, and is commonly called barley; that which consists of four rows, is more prolific in light soils, and affords more bolls upon an acre. The Russian barley of six rows, and the naked or Siberian barley, have been tried, but have fallen into disuse, on account of the smallness of their profit, and the badness of the straw.

Green Crops, &c.—We have two kinds of pease; the one early, and the other late. Wheat is not much cultivated. Flax is raised in considerable quantities, and makes good returns. Potatoes are cultivated to a great extent; and have very much supplanted the turnips as a fallow, where barley and grass seeds are to be sown for the succeeding crop. The grasses sown are rye-grass, red, white, and sometimes yellow clover, and narrow plantane or rib grass.

Agriculture.—The soil of this country is by no means rich; but it is capable of great improvement, and makes good returns. The style of the farmers houses is much improved within these 20 years. In this district the farmers often plow their ground with two horses, which the ploughman drives and manages with long reins. In some cases we see 4 horses yoked in a long plough, and a boy driving them; and even the broad plough, with 4 horses yoked abreast, is not entirely exploded. In stony ground the Scotch plough is preferred; but in other land, the farmers generally use curved mold boards, small socks fixed upon an iron sole, and regulate the draught entirely by the muzzle. The harrows are common, except that in some cases they use large breakers, with teeth like small plough-shares, fixed above the bills, with an iron slit-

wedge put in across, where the land is stiff and coarse. The manures are of the usual sort. No marl has hitherto been discovered; but we use plenty of lime.

Mills, &c.—We have 2 lint mills, 4 meal mills, 1 for bruising lint and rapeseed, 1 fulling mill for woollen cloth, and 1 threshing mill for grain; and 3 kilns, with *yetling*, or cast iron floors, for drying grain.

Improvements.—One material regulation, which tended greatly to the improvement of this country, was dividing the large farms into as many lots or divisions as there were tenants, and setting down every man on his own lot, instead of having two or three ploughgates, all *run-rig*, as formerly. By this practice, the sloven was left behind, while the industrious farmer beautified his lot, and enriched himself. A great extent of new ground has been cultivated, and rendered arable. Mr. Buchanan of Cambusmore has at present rich grass or corns on several hundreds of acres, where heath, knee deep, used to grow.

Wild Plants.—The most obnoxious weeds are thistles, (*Serratula*), wild mustard, dock, spurry (*Spergula arvensis*), bishop-weed, cow-parsonip, fitches (*Vicia sepium*), cow-thistle, mugwort, coltsfoot, or tussilago, triticum repens, avena sterilis, daitylis glomerata. The principal officinal herb is the *uva ursi*, which grows in great abundance on the face of the hill above Stronedragon, in Brea-Leney. Several others are to be found, which are common almost every where in Scotland. —This parish affords a good field for the *botanist*. A great variety of *splachniums*, *niniums*, *bryums*, *hypniums*, *licbens*, *junger mannias*, *tremillas*, *agarici*, *voleti*, and other *fungi*, are to be found. No plant, except what belongs to the class *Cryptogamia*,

Cryptogamia, has been discovered, but what is described by Mr. LIGHTFOOT in his *Flora Scotica*.

Seed Time and Harvest.—Our seed time is regulated by the season. Oats and pease are generally sown about the beginning of April, and flax-seed towards the latter end of it. Potatoes are planted about the beginning of May; the barley, with or without grass seeds, about the middle of May; turnips in June. The flax is pulled about Lammas, or the middle of August; the barley is reaped by the beginning of September; the oats and late pease about the middle, and towards the end of that month. The late potatoes are ripe about the same time; yams a little later; but the early potatoes are ready in July*.

Prices of Grain, Provisions and Labour.—The barley is generally sold at from 15s. to 18s. per boll, Linlithgow measure; the oats from 13s. 4d. to 16s.; the sown hay at 6d. and the bog hay at 3d. per stone. Butcher meat sells at from 3d. to 4d. per lb., according to its quality and the season of the year. Lamb generally brings a higher price. A man servant, who is master of his business, is hired at 7l. or 8l. Sterling, and a maid servant at 3l. a year†. Day-labourers receive 1s. a day. The prices of labour, of poultry, of butcher meat, of butter and

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of

* N.B. In the original account of the parish of Callander, these and other articles were stated at greater length; but the author being now employed at the desire of the BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, to draw up a general view of the present state of the stock and husbandry of Strathern, and the southern parts of Perthshire, has considerably abridged them here; as his remarks on the *cultivation of the ground*, the *nature of the grains*, the *improvement of the breed of cattle*, and the *management of woods*, &c. will appear, with equal propriety, in that publication; and the size of this paper will consequently be brought within as moderate bounds as possible.

† About 20 years ago, a man servant, of the same qualifications, was got for 4l., and a female servant for 1l. 15s. per annum; and, about 30 years ago, the former got 3l., and the latter only 24s. a year: Labourers 6d. a day.

of cheese, and the wages of servants, are tripled, in this country, within these 40 years: partly owing to the improved state of the country, and partly to the influx of money from the East Indies. This rise in the articles of living does not affect the landed interest, because their rents rise in proportion; neither does it materially affect labourers, manufacturers, or farmers, because the prices of their labour, and of their commodities, rise in the same degree; but to individuals, or to classes of men who live upon stated annuities, such as the ministers of the Established Church, these are serious matters. The same domestic expence, which they could easily have supported about 40 years ago, upon an income of 50l., cannot, at this day, be supported upon thrice that income. They must therefore fall back daily in the scale of society: And there is no remedy, unless the Court of Teinds are pleased to adopt another mode of procedure, by opening decreets, at shorter intervals, or the Legislature to interfere, to rescue them from penury, which always begets contempt.

Manufactures, &c.—There are no services exacted from the farmers in any part of this parish. There are no manufactures upon extensive plans, or carried on by companies, upon a joint stock. Woollen and linen yarn is much spun by the poor, for sale. The carpet manufacturers in Stirling buy up the woollen, and the Glasgow manufacturers the linen yarn. The servants, and the children of farmers are all employed, (when they have no labour in the fields), in spinning these kinds of yarn, partly for sale, and partly for their own use. All that is wanted, to establish manufactures here, is a proper plan, and some person or company of credit to be undertakers. Wool has become the staple of this country of late years. We have also fine streams to drive machinery, of any weight necessary in the linen or cotton business, and plenty of proper fields,

fields, and the softest water for bleaching cloth. And if a person of knowledge, in any of these branches, and otherwise of a good character, were to offer his services, it is well known, that Mr. Drummond of Perth would meet his wishes; by affording him every accommodation, and by assisting him otherwise, on reasonable terms.

Police.—The gentlemen are very attentive to the police of the country, as far as the present influence or interpretation of the law renders their endeavours successful. Yet there are many petty crimes which must finally pass with impunity, which are very hurtful to society, because they do not incur the higher penalties of the law; crimes, hurtful to society and contagious in a high degree, which scarcely come within the description of a breach of the peace, which neither the public prosecutor for the crown, nor any private prosecutor have any concern with; and if a magistrate shall be so public spirited, as, out of regard to the morals of the people, to commit persons guilty of these crimes, he generally gets the constables to pay out of his own pocket, for his pains; and these corrupters of society return, in a few days, with a brazen countenance, more hardened in vice, and more intent upon corrupting others, than they were before*.

Inn and Ale-Houses.—There is an inn at the village of Callander, which is very well kept, and, to encourage the landlord to be careful to accommodate the public, Mr. Drummond
of

* His Majesty's pious proclamation for the orderly behaviour of his subjects, wanted only the interposition of the Legislature to render it effectual. A *bride-well* is far preferable to the shame of the pillory, to those who cannot blush, and to the terrors of a jail, to those who have either the ingenuity to keep within the law, and elude its penalties, or who have no reluctance to be supported at the expence of the public.

of Perth pays the duty of a post chaise for some time. We have many ale-houses, or rather dram-houses. What a pity, that these sinks of iniquity should have such unbounded liberty, where the morals of the people are corrupted, their constitutions ruined, and their substance squandered away*!

Roads and Bridges.—Our roads are in tolerable order, considering their number. Our statute service is partly commuted, and partly exacted in labour, as the gentlemen see the probability of its turning out to the best account. Several bridges have been lately erected, and are properly taken care of. We owe much of our convenience in this respect to the funds of the annexed estates, and to the public spirit of the country at large.

Antiquities.—The charter of the family of Leney, which, at present, is represented by Mr Hamilton of Bardowie, is very singular. ALEXANDER II., on the 25th of October, in the 23d year of his reign, which corresponds to the 1237 year of the Christian æra, confirmed by a written charter, *Alano de Lani et Margaritæ de Lani*, the possession of this estate, which had been formerly granted by king CALENUS to *Gillespie Moir de Lani, militi*, to be held, *virtute Gladii parvi*. This charter is not only a curiosity for its antiquity, but it appears from

* The licences to retail spirits are too easily obtained. While many taxes, which fall very heavy on the poor and industrious, are necessary for the support of the public expence, these tippling houses, in a great measure, go *scart free*. There is perhaps as much duty laid on the malt, and on distillery, as they can bear and be productive; but the retailers of spirits, in *low houses*, are very tenderly dealt with. A guinea or two, upon every licence to sell spirits of any kind, and in any quantity, and upon any road, would bring a prodigious revenue to government, and amend the morals of the people. And it is better in all cases to prevent, than to punish crimes. Dramming is not only a luxury but a pernicious luxury. Many of our luxuries have a tendency to make us more industrious; but when will the seller or drinker of drams be industrious?

from it, that the feudal system then prevailed in Scotland; because the charter, taking notice of a former resignation, says, that it was made *per fustim et baculum*, which are the symbols used in resignations at the present time*.—There is in the farm of *Achbinlaich*, a circular rampart, on the summit of a rising ground, and in the vicinity of a deep chasm formed by the burn of *Kelty*†. This fortification is surrounded only by a single ditch and mound of earth, and appears to have been a place of no great security; were it not, that the adjacent ground slopes from it in every direction, and that the wild glen behind it, where the water can scarcely be seen, for projecting rocks and hanging trees, afforded, at all times, a near and safe retreat‡.

There is another fortification, of the same nature, on the top of the *Dun* above Bochartle; except that it is of less extent,

* This charter also proves, that the date of royal charters was not, in those ages, ascertained by the year of God, but by the year of the king's reign; which was the practice of the Jews, who referred to a particular year of the king's reign, as well as of the Romans, who referred to the consulship of particular persons; and likewise, that more ancient grants were, in the simplicity of these ages, proved by the possession of particular relics; such as the *gladius parvus*, which is of silver, having some hieroglyphic figures, probably descriptive of the prowess of Gillespie Moir, on one side, and his name, in Gothic characters, on the other.

† *Kelty* is a name given to rapid waters, in many parts of the world, and in different languages.

N. B. This name signifies the *loss* or *destruction* which these torrents, rising so suddenly, bring on every creature, and every thing in their way. Smooth waters are never called *Kelty*. There is a *Kelty* in Strathern, and another in Abyssinia.

‡ If this fortification be of Danish construction, these rovers must have used it for fear of the Caledonians, whose country they had invaded: for they seldom suffered intruders to possess their lands quietly, or to leave them with impunity. But if it was used by the natives, it was probably intended, not only to secure their persons from insult, but their cattle from depredation; which purpose it was well calculated, from its extent, to serve.

tent, and has three tiers of ditches and mounds, which seem to have been erected with more care, because the earth of each mound is strengthened and secured by stones, from falling back into the ditches. This situation is chosen with consummate art, is incommoded by no elevated ground, commands an extensive prospect, and, in case of a blockade, has a reservoir, in the middle, to retain water from the clouds*.

There are the remains of an old castle at the manse of Callander, which was built or repaired in 1596, by Livingston, Earl of Linlithgow. It was a square tower of considerable height; in the construction of which, strength rather than elegance was studied. There is a tract of fine land in this neighbourhood, called *the Barony of Callander*, which was once the property of the *CALLANDERS of Callander*, and continued for many

* This strong hold seems to have been erected, not only for the protection of the inhabitants, when they were actually invaded, but as a watch tower, to give the alarm in the prospect of danger. It commands the most extensive view towards the E. and is well seen from *Dunmait*, near Stirling, which place, from its name, *Dun-ma-it*, (contracted for *Dun-ma-chit*, the *hill of the good prospect*), and, from its situation, may have been another post for alarming the people; and *Dunmait* may have got the signal of danger from some other place farther E. There are, in many valleys, which stretch into the Grampians, not only from the champaign country in the E. of Scotland, from which quarter an attack was, for several reasons, generally made, but in all other directions, the vestiges of watch towers, of rude workmanship, to be found. They were situated not far from the dwellings of some of the inhabitants, on the face of the hills, and placed zigzag from the one side of a valley to the other, and running generally far into the country. By means of fire lighted on these towers, the whole inhabitants could be alarmed, to a great distance, in a few minutes.

In Breadalbane, there are three of these, one at each end of Loch-Tay, on the S. side, and one about the middle, on the N.; by means of which all the people in that tract of country, from Benmore to Weem, consisting of near 40 miles, could be put on their guard, on any sudden emergency; and it is likely that other similar posts communicated with these, down to Dunkeld, or farther.

many ages in that family. It was forfeited in the reign of James I. or II., and given to the Livingstons, who were afterwards created earls, by that title. They either enlarged or rebuilt the castle*, and inscribed the name of their own family, and the year, on the door-head. This land was sold to the family of PERTH, about the year 1630, in whose possession it now remains.

There is, in the plain of Bochartle, an artificial bank †, in a straight line, of the length of 60 paces. It has the appearance of a tire or two of seats, on the W. side, for the accommodation of spectators, with butts at each end. There is a curious conical hill or mount, at Callander, where the old church stood ‡. This mount, which seems to be artificial, is

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called

* This castle was mostly taken down in 1737, to build a mill and a dam dike; and the remainder was so much undermined by these mutilations, that it fell down about 17 years ago. The present manse was built out of these ruins. The cement was so strong, that the stones would break before the fragments could be torn asunder. Oyster shells were found in abundance, buried about the foot of the castle, which shows that no quarry lime was then discovered, at least in this part of the kingdom. From this early practice of using calcined shells for mortar, the burnt lime-stone is still called *shells*. And it is probable, that the strong band which took place, and is so much admired in old buildings, is not owing to any intrinsic or superior quality in the lime of these times; but to the precaution of pouring, into every course of the wall, liquid mortar, of *new slacked* lime, while the building was going on. The calcined shells were carefully kept from rain or moisture, under a proper cover, and taken in small quantities at a time, which were successively slacked and sanded for immediate use.

† Some persons allege, that this bank, and a similar one on the opposite side of the Dun, and almost at equal distances from it, were lines of approach to reduce the fort; but the country had no weapon of offence, at that period, that could make any execution at so great distance.

‡ This beautiful hill has acquired additional celebrity, by being chosen as the

called TOM-MA-CHESSAIG, the HILL OF ST. KESSAIG ; and, according to tradition, was used for butts, where the people, upon Sabbath evenings, exercised themselves with their bows and arrows, according to an ancient Scotch law for that purpose *. There is another hill, larger than *Tom-ma-chessaig*, at *Little Leney*, where *Norie's Chapel* stood, which is still used as a cemetery by those of the name of *Buchanan* †.

Near the village of Callander, there is a bank, inclosing about 4 acres of ground, the river forming one side, which is called the *Roman Camp* ; but notwithstanding the name which this place has obtained, (only indeed of late), there is nothing about it which resembles such a work of the Romans. The Roman camps were drawn with straight lines and right angles:

There

the site of a bonfire, in 1784, by the gentlemen of this country, and the tenants on this part of the estate of Perth, to testify their joy when the property was restored to that family, who have shown themselves, not only so worthy of having got the estate, but likewise of soon getting the honours of that ancient family restored.

* About many old churches we see the remains of yew trees, of which the bows were made. Out of respect to the tutelar saint of this place, who certainly would be supposed to witness the exercise, the different candidates would exert themselves to the utmost, to carry the palm of victory.

† Our fathers had an uncommon predilection for building their churches, and having their burying ground in places surrounded with waters, and often inaccessible by reason of the floods. Yet we ought not to judge rashly of their conduct ; for mankind, in general, seem, at every period, to have reasoned with the same degree of accuracy, and exerted the same penetration, concerning their own situation, independent of the use of letters. In the earlier stages of society, man had a host of foes to contend against ; and the tribes of carnivorous beasts, which might be afraid to attack him when alive, would often, when stimulated by the cravings of a voracious appetite, attack the mansions of the dead, and disturb the repose of man even in the lonely grave. And if mankind found it necessary to have these places of security, to protect their bones from the ravages of wolves, bears, and other beasts of prey, they would naturally, be led to consecrate a place, for the worship of the Deity, near to their burying ground.

There is neither the one nor the other here; no ditch or fosse. The bank itself has a great deal of more earth, than any mound that surrounds any Roman camp, in this part of the world; and therefore altogether unnecessary for resisting any mode of attack, which was practised at the time the Romans paid their visit to this country. It is a beautiful waving bank, formed by the hand of nature, covered with a variety of trees, and shrubbery, and having a well dressed terrace on the summit, whose successive curvatures, whose waving swells and hollows, put the present possessor, Captain Fairfoul, in mind of the rolling waves in the Bay of Biscay. There are several such banks on either side of the river, both above and below that place; although they have not attracted the notice of mankind, by being covered with wood, nor winding in such beautiful meanders. A Danish coffin of stone, consisting of 6 rude flags, 4 of which were oblong, and of the length of a human body, and a square one at each end, was lately found at Callander, in widening the public road. These stone coffins are discovered in many parts of Scotland *.

Eminent Men.—The most learned person, who is known to have belonged to this parish, is Dr. FRANCIS BUCHANAN, at present in the East Indies. In classical and medical knowledge he has few equals, and is well acquainted with the whole system of nature. Many other young men, bred and educated here, have gone abroad to several parts of the world, and have proved a credit to their country.

Language.—The language spoken by persons of rank and of liberal education, is English; but the language of the lower

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classes

* Some of them were got about a mile W. from the bridge of Linlithgow, at the same time with this one at Callander, by people engaged in a similar operation.

classes is *Gaelic*. It would be almost unnecessary to say any thing of this language to those who understand it. They know its energy and power; the ease with which it is compounded; the boldness of its figures; its majesty, in addressing the Deity; and its tenderness in expressing the finest feelings of the human heart. But its genius and constitution, the structure of its nouns and verbs, and the affinity it has to some other languages, are not so much attended to. These point at a very remote æra, and would seem to deduce the origin of this language from a very high antiquity*.

The

* The etymology of every farm and hill in this country is Gaelic, and is descriptive of their situation, or of some other peculiar quality: A few of these shall only be given, because disquisitions of this nature may appear tiresome to those who have no knowledge of the language, while they afford amusement and information to others. Any Gaelic words, that occur, are spelled according to the English orthography, to render them legible by English readers.

Leney, in Gaelic *Làn-uib*, i. e. *full of wood*. The plains of *Leney* were formerly covered with stately alders, the skirts of the hills with oaks, the front and brow of the hills and glens with birches. The alders and birches have mostly disappeared; the oak woods are preserved.

Laair, a *hoof*, or rather, in the Scotch dialect, a *clute*, which signifies a single hoof of an animal that has the *hoofs* cloven. This, and other places of that name, exactly resemble that part of the animal, being encompassed by two rivulets, the one running in a straight, and the other in a curve line, forming a very acute angle at the point where they meet.

Kilmahog, in Gaelic *Kil-ma-chug*, i. e. *the cell of St. Hog*, or *Chùg*. The festival of *St. Chùg*, is the 26th day of November, which is a cattle market in this country.

Tom-bea, the *birch hill*.

Aney, *à-n-eib*, the *ford of deer*, where they passed from the forest of *Glenfinlas* to the forest of *Glenertney*.

Ardhùllary, (*ard-chul-rui*), the *shealing*, with a *height* at its *back*.

Glengyle, *Glean-goul*, the *forked glen*.

Coil-chra, *Coil-chrò*, the *wood of nuts*. This is the largest hazle wood in this country, and might, at a very small expence, be converted into an oak wood. This, and most other hazle woods, are interspersed with straggling oaks,

The verbs of the GAELIC language have only three tenses, which is the simplest, and most natural division of time. The perfect

oaks, and oak woods are generally interspersed with hazle; which shows that both of these timbers delight in the same soil and exposure.

Ard-mac-mūin, the height for the brood of substance, or cattle. The most of the people's riches consisted in cattle, when this place got its name.

Stron-garv-altry, the nose at the rough or rapid brook. A bold promontary projects into Loch-Catherine, at this place, and a torrent rushes along its base into the lake.

Edir-a-leachdach, between the two brooks of flags. This farm is bounded on both sides by rivulets, which run mostly upon smooth rock, or large flags.

Le-tir, the half of the land. This is a very common name in the Highlands, and is applicable to places on a gentle declivity, bounded above by a ridge, which runs across the head of the farm. From this ridge there is a gradual slope to the boundary below, which is generally stagnant or running water. There is no doubt of *tir* and *terra* being originally the same word; but which of these is the original, may not perhaps be so universally allowed. To prevent the ridicule of the half-thinking part of mankind, who judge from prejudices, and without due enquiry, is at all times a desirable object; but when truth speaks, her voice must finally prevail. This subject will occur afterwards; at present let it suffice to observe, that the ancient Scythians, who spoke the Celtic language, of which the Gaelic is a dialect, were a great and warlike people, long before Rome was built, or its founder born; and that this dialect of the Celtic has, in its constitution, a much nearer affinity to languages, which are acknowledged to be more ancient than Greek or Latin, than it has either to these, or to any other language of a modern date. Its construction, its genius, and its power, bear the evident marks of a very remote origin.

Brea-n-choil, above the wood. This wood, which is also called *Trosachs*, i. e. roughness, is of a particular kind, and exhibits a most romantic scene, which is described above.

Ard-ken-knockan, the height at the end of the hills.

Glen-fin-glass, the fair green glen; a forest belonging to the Earl of Moray,

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remarkable for one of the largest tracts of green pasture to be met with in the Grampians. It is called *Fin-glass*, because long grass, which is green in summer, acquires a bleached and white appearance by the winter storms.

Ach-na-hard, the field of the height. *Ach* is always applied to a horizontal field

perfect tense seems to be the root of the verb ; the perfect and future are regular, or found in the verb itself ; the present

field of some extent, and is a very common name given to places in the Highlands.

Dun-craggan, the mount of the rock. *Dun* literally signifies a heap, and is applied indiscriminately to a heap of earth, or of houses, collected together. Hence the names of our most ancient towns ; such as *Dun-barton*, *Dun-dee*, *Dun-edin*, or the *dun* on the face of a hill, (*Edinburgh*, &c.) This is the only name of that city in the ancient language of Scotland.

Offerans, in Gaelic, *Oir-roin*, the side of the point. This name is generally given to places at the side of a river, where it either runs into the head of a lake, or falls into another river ; and the inclosed land between the two rivers is called *Rofs*, which is a very common word. *Rofs-shire* is so called from its being bounded by the two rivers, which fall into the Moray Frith, and that of Dornoch. Fife was anciently called *Rofs* for a similar reason, as well as *Kinrofs*, *Roslyn*, *Rosdui*, and the *Rofs* at Lochlomin, &c. &c.

Len-rick, in Gaelic *La-rig*, contracted for *Lav-risg*, or *Lav-ri-uifg*, a place near water. The Lenricks are always situated by running or stagnant water, but generally by the former, because *uifg* was a name for a small river.

N.B. *Nefs* signifies the same thing in the Norse language ; as *Inverness*, *Buchaness*, *Blackness*, &c.

Port-an-eilean, the harbour of the island. In an island of Lochvennachair, opposite to this farm, there has been a castle, a place of strength, and consequently the inhabitants came ashore from their strong hold, on this farm. *Port* is evidently the same word with the Latin *portus*, and has the same signification.

Tar-an-dūin, the groin of the hill. Immediately above this place, there is a conical *dun* or hill, which hangs over it, and on the top of the *dun* there has been a fortification.

Bo-chastle, or *Mo-chaster* : The first name signifies the town of the castle, the second the plain of the castle or fortification ; alluding to the *dun* mentioned in the former article, and the extensive plain, on which the farm town is situated. The Aborigines of this country had no other name for a place of strength, except *caistal* or *caster*, which is evidently synonymous with the *castellum* and *castra* of the Romans. There are also many compounded names of places in England, of which *cesler* makes a part. It is however probable, that these places had such names before the invasion of JULIUS CÆSAR, because the island was well peopled, and because the inhabitants, but more especially the Caledonians, had not such respect for these plunderers of the world, or such knowledge of their language, as to borrow the names of places from them.

sent tense is made up of the present participle, and the present of

Gar-chonie, or *Gar-choine*, the inclosure of lamentation, from a bloody battle between two clans, of which the tradition is still fresh in the country.

Ach-an-lavich, the field of the industrious. There are great cairns, or heaps of field stones, gathered off the arable ground, which, at the present rate of wages, would have cost nearly the price of the farm.

Gart, the field. *Gart* signifies an arable field of some extent. *Gartean* is the diminutive. Both names are much used in the Highlands.

Ari-vuri-cheardich, the shealling of the Moravian tinker. Every place of this country, in the early ages, abounded in wood, and there are vestiges, in many parts, of furnaces, where cast iron was either made, or smelted, and formed into rude implements, which were necessary for the use of the inhabitants. —If we allow the authenticity of what SCOT of Scotstarvet says, in his *History of Scotland*, that the county of Moray was so named from a number of *Moravians* who settled there, and that they were an active and ingenious people, these Germans very probably imported the art of working in cast iron, practised it themselves, and went up and down through the country, teaching their art to the inhabitants: And in the intervals of peace, when national industry was encouraged by the state, considering the difficulty of getting iron from abroad, some of them might have been settled by government, at *Ari-vuri-cheardich*. The Gaelic always applies the word which signifies *tinker*, to one who works in cast iron; and the word which signifies a *smith*, to one who works in iron that is malleable.

Broc-làn, full of badgers, a farm where these animals still abound.

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Binean, a peak rising behind the Trosachs, which seems to be all that remains, in its original situation, of the mountain from which the Trosachs were formed. It is very singular, from the smallness of its circumference, and the altitude with which it pushes its head up into the clouds. This word is the diminutive of *bein*, a mountain. The diminutives in Gaelic are mostly formed by adding the syllable *ean*, or *an*, to the end of masculine, and *ag* to feminine words, with sometimes a small variation of the preceding vowels, for softening the sound. The language of a people is always smooth or rugged, harmonious or harsh, corresponding to the taste of that people for music, and to the nicety of their ear. The Gaelic pays particular attention to this circumstance, although it has the appearance of being altogether guttural to a stranger: These gutturals are omitted in pronouncing it, being preserved only, in order to ascertain the derivation, and point out the root of the word. Some late improvements, attempted in that language, are picking out the *bristles*, to give it a smoother appearance to the eye, without seeming

of the auxiliary verb, which signifies *to be* (*a*).

The persons of each tense are distinguished, not by different terminations of the verb, but by adding pronominal particles to each person, both in the singular and plural numbers (*b*). The third person singular of every tense has genders, or admits of a masculine and feminine particle affixed (*c*). The moods, in a strict sense, are the indicative, the imperative, and the infinitive. Some mode of expressing what is called the subjunctive, must be, in every language. In Gaelic, it differs from the indicative only by the addition of one syllable to the verb, and a conjunction before it (*d*). The imperative has no more than the second person in both numbers (*e*). The action of the third person is expressed by the subjunctive, whether it implies command or desire (*f*). The infinitive is frequently used as a subjunctive noun, expressive of the abstract signification of the verb (*g*). The gerunds are expressed by the infinitive, and are known by the particles being placed before them, which mark the oblique cases of nouns (*h*). There is only one conjugation. Gram-

seeming to attend to the consequence, which will be feebleness and obscurity. The ear is never hurt by consonants, which are not sounded. The other languages of the north of Europe, and also the oriental languages, retain their radical consonants, without which it would be impossible to know their meaning or derivation.

(*a*) The present is, *ata-mi sgriv*, I am writing, or I write. The perfect, *sgriv-mi*, I wrote; future, *sgrivih-mi*, I shall write. (*b*) *Sgriv-mi*, *sgriv-i*, *sgriv-e*, *sgriv-fin*, *sgriv-siv*, *sgriv-iad*. (*c*) *Sgriv-e*, he wrote; *sgriv-i*, she wrote. (*d*) *Huib-e*, *chum sgun sgriveab-e*, he sat that he might write. (*e*) *Sriv-us*, write thou; *sriv-iu*, write ye. (*f*) Third person singular, *sriveab-e*, let him write; third person plural, *sriveab-iadfan*, let them write. (*g*) The infinitive is, *sriveab*, as, *ha mi dol sriveab*, I am going to write; we say, *ciod an sriveab-fin*, what writ or writing is that?—(*h*) *An sriveab*, of writing; *do sriveab*, to writing; *chum sriveab*, ad scribendum;

marians, the most learned in those languages which have the nearest affinity to the Gaelic, have exploded every conjugation, except one; or have acknowledged, at least, that more than one are unnecessary, because the rest are only modifications of the same verb, and declined in the same manner (i). There are no more than one declension, unless we call the masculine words one, and the feminine another. The cases of nouns are marked, not by additional terminations, but by different particles, which are peculiar to each case, and generally a change of the last vowel in some of the cases (k). The genitive is often known by the *construction*. When one substantive governs another, the accent is put on the last syllable of the preceding word, with some change in the vowels; which, without any possessive particle, shows that the following word is understood to be in the genitive case. Two substantives, pronounced with the same tone, are of the nominative case; but the *accelerated pronunciation* always denotes the possessive. This construction is called by grammarians, who treat of it, the *status absolutus* and the *status constructus* of words (l). The degrees of comparison are formed, not by adding certain syllables to the end of the adjectives, but by placing before them; for the *comparative*, an indeclinable word, signifying a higher degree of their quality; and for the *superlative*, either another indeclinable word, denoting their highest degree, or very frequently a repetition of the positive (m). *.

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General

le scriveah, with writing. (i) *Scriv* is *wrote*, the perfect active; and *scrivt* is *written*, the perfect passive. (k) *Ri*, a king: gen. *ri*, or *an ri*; dat. *do ri*; accus. *ri*; voc. *o ri*; abl. *o ri*. (l) *Cean ri*, a king's head; *crùn ri*, a king's crown. (m) *Ard*, high; *nas aird*, higher; *is aird*, highest; *ro ard*, or *ard ard*, very high.

* More of the characteristic features of the Gaelic might have been given, and

General Character.—The character of the people is various ; but, in general, both here and along the eastern side of the Gram-pians,

and the examples of each, for the sake of illustration, added ; but perhaps to some persons, what has been already said may appear too much, while others will see, in the constitution of this language, a very striking *affinity* to the Eastern languages, in some of their most distinguishing peculiarities. Such a strong likeness, and clear analogy, cannot possibly be the effect of chance. To the candid, who are at pains to trace it with industry and impartiality, it must infer a near propinquity in these languages, and an origin from the same source. This is the manner of reasoning with regard to the analogy between the oriental languages themselves ; and it is universally allowed to be conclusive.

Evidence of this nature, founded on proofs drawn from the similarity or the derivation of a few words, are generally regarded with some degree of suspicion ; but such a striking analogy, in the very *constitutional* and fundamental principles of languages, and that in so many particulars, is a very different kind of proof ; and, in all cases, implies a family likeness, which is fairly and fully recognized, and carries conviction to the mind.

This conviction is strengthened, if it be allowed, on the credit of Ezekiel, Strabo, Josephus, Bochart, Diodorus, Cæsar, Tacitus, and others, (and I know not how their testimony can be refused), that the Celts and Scythians were one great people, or that they frequently mixed together, as they advanced in their progress, and in the neighbourhood of each other, from Asia to the western boundaries of Europe ; and that they had a near affinity, both of kindred, and of language, and manners, being sprung from Gomer and Magog, the grandsons of Noah, by Japhet. These sons of Japhet were the first cousins of Eber, the father of the Hebrews. Their family language must have been originally the same, and their claim to antiquity equally well founded.

While tribes continue unmixed with people of other tongues, their language continues pure : But when empires are overturned, and fierce invasions take place, the natives and foreigners, the invaded and invaders, are, in a course of years, blended together, and their languages, however different, are melted down in into one tongue. This has introduced a confusion into modern languages and nations ; by their being compounded of different races, and of a mixture of different words and idioms, from which more ancient languages and an unmixed people are altogether free.

The emigrations and separations of the same people, into different nations and tribes, introduces indeed different dialects of the original language, but never the mixed language, which follows from a mixture of heterogeneous peoples and
tongues.

pians, they are divested of the fullness of those, in the same rank, who inhabit the champaign country farther E. and S.,

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and

tongues. Of these facts every person can quote instances for himself. No great tribes of mankind appear ever to have been more jealous of others, or more desirous of preserving themselves a distinct people, and every thing distinct, that belonged to them, than the Celts and Hebrews.—But I hasten to drop this subject.

The Gaelic, being the language of a people by no means refined, must necessarily appear as *defective* as the languages of other nations in the same state of society. Languages are not invented by *philosophers*, and formed from *theories*, nor by nations in the more polished stages of society; but by men engaged in the busiest scenes of life, and in the infancy of society. In the rude ages, the wants of men are few, and their ideas limited: Their language corresponds with their situation. They have no use for words to express, either circumstances which do not occur, or ideas which they have not acquired. Their language is abundantly copious for themselves. In the progress and more refined stages of society, when arts and sciences, and commerce and luxury, are introduced, a nation must have *new* words to express these; and they generally borrow the words and phrases, from the people who are their instructors in the innovations introduced. They also learn, by degrees, to express themselves with more precision, even with regard to *time*: Hence not only a multitude of new words, but a greater variety of moods and tenses, in their verbs.

Even the Greek and Latin, which are accounted the most perfect languages, and abound in modes of expressing time, have fewer original tenses than one would at first suppose. Their *compound tenses* are nothing else but certain participles, coupled with an auxiliary verb. And these compound tenses in the passive voice, and some of their derived tenses in the active, together with such a variety of moods, were not, in all probability, invented at the time of forming the language, but when the language was improved, and while the society was advancing from barbarism to refinement. The same structure takes place in French and English; and may be owing to the same cause. The Greek that was spoken by Jason and his Argonauts, in quest of the golden fleece, and the Latin spoken by the Romans, in the Sabine war, may have been as defective, in all respects, as the Gaelic, in the days of Ossian. This poverty, therefore, is not a fault of the language, but the unavoidable lot of *every language*, spoken in the same state of society. And a language must continue for ever barren, when books are not written in it, to bring it upon the anvil of the critic, or when the tide of fashion runs in favour of another language, whenever the state of society begins to be improved.

and of the idleness of those, farther N. and W. They have not perhaps arrived at the plodding industry of the former, while they have relinquished much of the pride of the latter. They are fast acquiring the diligence and attention necessary in the agricultural state of society, and are in a great measure free from the vices of great towns*. The people are humane, affectionate, and polite. But if the enlargement of farms is introduced, and the country depopulated to make room for sheep, the inhabitants must emigrate, or crowd to villages: And if villages are increased, without due regard to their police, their employment, and their manners, it were much better for the people, and their country, that they had never seen a village, but had remained in the simplicity of rural life, wrapped in their plaids all day long, as their fathers were, on the brow of a hill, attending their cattle, and composing sonnets.

Peculiar Customs—The people of this district have two customs, which are fast wearing out, not only here, but all over the Highlands, and therefore ought to be taken notice of, while they remain. Upon the first day of May, which is called *Beltan*, or *Bàl-tein* day, all the boys in a township or hamlet, meet in the moors. They cut a table in the green sod, of a round figure, by casting a trench in the ground, of such circumference as to hold the whole company. They kindle a fire, and dress a repast of eggs and milk in the consistence of a custard. They knead a cake of oatmeal, which is toasted at the embers against a stone. After the custard is eaten up, they divide the cake into so many portions, as similar as possible to

* Only one instance of child-murder, and another of suicide, have occurred in this parish in the memory of man. No person was ever known to be hanged or transported for felony who belonged to this district. None has ever been heard of to die for want.

to one another in size and shape, as there are persons in the company. They daub one of these portions all over with charcoal, until it be perfectly black. They put all the bits of the cake into a bonnet. Every one, blindfold, draws out a portion. He who holds the bonnet, is entitled to the last bit. Whoever draws the black bit, is the *devoted* person who is to be sacrificed to *Baal**, whose favour they mean to implore, in rendering the year productive of the sustenance of man and beast. There is little doubt of these inhuman sacrifices having been once offered in this country, as well as in the east, although they now pass from the act of sacrificing, and only compel the *devoted* person to leap three times through the flames; with which the ceremonies of this festival are closed. The other custom is, that on All-Saints Even, they set up bonfires in every village. When the bonfire is consumed, the ashes are carefully collected in the form of a circle. There is a stone put in, near the circumference, for every person of the several families interested in the bonfire; and whatever stone

is

* *Bal-tein* signifies the *fire of Baal*. *Baal*, or *Ball*, is the only word in Gaelic for a *globe*. This festival was probably in honour of the sun, whose return, in his apparent annual course, they celebrated, on account of his having such a visible influence, by his genial warmth, on the productions of the earth. That the Caledonians paid a superstitious respect to the sun, as was the practice among many other nations, is evident, not only by the sacrifice at Baltein, but upon many other occasions. When a Highlander goes to bathe, or to drink waters out of a consecrated fountain, he must always approach by going round the place, from *east to west on the south side*, in imitation of the apparent diurnal motion of the sun. When the dead are laid in the earth, the grave is approached by going round in the same manner. The bride is conducted to her future spouse, in the presence of the minister, and the glass goes round a company, in the course of the sun. This is called, in Gaelic, going round the right, or the *lucky way*. The opposite course is the wrong, or the *unlucky way*. And if a person's meat or drink were to affect the wind-pipe, or come against his breath, they instantly cry out *deisbeal*! which is an ejaculation praying that it may go by the right way.

is moved out of its place, or injured before next morning, the person represented by that stone is devoted, or *fey*; and is supposed not to live twelve months from that day. The people received the consecrated fire from the Druid priests next morning, the virtues of which were supposed to continue for a year.

Stature and Manner of Living.—The inhabitants of this district, are neither remarkable for the tallness nor the shortness of their stature. They are, in general, well shaped; and very few or none deformed from their birth. A common labourer, who earns 1s. or 1s. 3d. a day, is thereby enabled, together with the industry of his wife, to bring up 5 or 6 children, with very little help from the public. By the time the children are 8 or 10 years of age, he hires them out to attend cattle, in summer, and puts them to school in winter. His earnings buy meal for the whole family; and a few potatoes, which he raises on a spot of ground, that he rents with his house, and a cow's milk, enable them to pass the winter comfortably.

Advantages.—This district has the advantage of being situated on the great military road, which leads from Stirling to Fort-William, and of having 5 fairs in the year. The merchants of this country, being near the Highlands, have the first offer for all the commodities in which they can supply the places beyond them; and its vicinity to the Low Country, enables it to partake of the plenty which there abounds. The school brings a good deal of money to the place, by the resort of boarders, and of families, who take lodgings in and about Callander, for the education of their children. Some genteel families take summer quarters for the benefit of the goat whey: And although the grain is no more than adequate to the consumption

sumption of the inhabitants, yet there are so many sheep and cows, so much wool and yarn, besides the produce of the dairy, sold off every year, that they can supply themselves abundantly, and have a surplus to pay their rents. This place lies so near the cattle markets at Doune, and in that neighbourhood, that our graziers have not only a ready sale for their own cows, but can let any remainder they have of grafs, in their parks, to great advantage, both while the drovers from the Highlands are going forward, and when any cattle remain unfold, from one market to another.

Disadvantages.—The principal disadvantages are, that the coals are 18 statute miles distant; and that lime is but 2 miles nearer, if our quarry at Leney should dip so much that it cannot be wrought, which is very probable; that the village of Callander may increase faster than the industry of the people; and that the growing luxury of the times, especially in the articles of dress, may, unless it be supported by honest labour, drive them to use improper means to supply their artificial wants. There is a communication opening between this place and Comrie, and the countries adjacent to it, on the N. But this line of road is incomplete, unless the road from Callander to Thornhill, and the Bridge of Frews, be put in proper repair, and the direction, in many places, changed. The two countries would then be more connected, and the reciprocal benefit of both advanced in a high degree; which is evidently the interest of the superiors of Thornhill and Callander, and of the country at large.

Means of Improvement.—The most apparent means of ameliorating the circumstances of the people of this place, are the introduction of some public works; either the spinning or weaving of wool, upon a larger scale; the spinning of cotton,
the

the bleaching of linen, or the printing of cotton clothe †. But we cannot expect to see the manufacture of cotton at home, meet with the encouragement it ought, as long as the monopolizers of cotton goods from the East Indies have such a weight in the public councils of the nation, unless the firmness, and the public spirit of the ministry interpose, in behalf of the manufacture of their own country. In the infancy of any trade, monopolies may be necessary for its prosperity; but, in its advanced state, monopolies are its ruin, and that of the country to which it belongs. Our flates, too, might be carried to the shore of Stirling, to which we have a fine road. Markets might be established for the sale of sheep, at proper seasons, in the same manner as for cows, and we might have a cow-market in the fall, the same as on the 15th of May. A great many more Scotch firs should be planted. Such is the present scarcity of this wood at Callander, that a cubical foot of it sells as dear in this place, as that from the Baltic, at the shore of Stirling. If the village shall be increased farther, Scotch firs or larches, of all kinds of timber, are the most necessary for that purpose; and there is plenty of waste ground, unfit for tillage, and yielding very little pasture. *Inoculation* might be rendered more general, and many lives saved to the public, if any method were devised for having it performed to the poor *gratis*. The surgeons of Edinburgh deserve great praise in this respect. Out of these princely donations, which the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge in Scotland, have lately received,

† Since October 1791, when this account was sent to Sir John Sinclair, the weaving of cotton has been introduced into the village of Callander; and about 100 looms are employed. Two tambour schools, for the flowering of cotton goods, have also been established, which afford employment to upwards of 100 girls. And, had it not been for the check that credit has received in spring 1793, it is probable these branches would have advanced with rapidity, as the people discover a great eagerness to be employed.

received, something might surely be done, in this way ; either by allowing a trifle to the surgeon of the bounds, where there is one, for every poor scholar on their establishment, that was inoculated ; or by employing a few surgeons, in their own pay, each to inoculate the poor in a certain district ; or by causing the most intelligent of their schoolmasters to be instructed for this purpose. If the women inoculate in the east, (as we are told they do), schoolmasters certainly might, with very few lessons, be taught to do it here ; and if the salaries are to be increased, this would be a most laudable duty, in return for the increase of salary. The funds of this society are said to be one of the best managed public stocks, of the same capital, in the British dominions ; and from the known character of the members, who are so high already in the esteem of the public, that no account of their qualities is necessary here, it might not perhaps be foreign to the object of their institution, for a few years, until inoculation became *general*, to bestow some attention in promoting the health and preserving the lives of their poorer scholars, while there is so much done to enlighten their minds, and to reform their morals. The number of *dogs* might be diminished by a judicious tax. There are more *useless* dogs, than what consume three times the quantity of food, which would maintain the whole poor. The number of dram houses is out of all bounds too great. These haunts of the idle, of the prodigal and profane, contaminate the morals of the lower classes of the people beyond description. A poor widow must pay a tax, before she can obtain a candle to give her light, in spinning for the support of her fatherless children ; and yet a dram-feller, it seems, can get a licence, under the sanction of law, for little more than one shilling, to corrupt the morals of the lieges for a whole *year*. The depopulation of the country is a most serious object ; and it is to be feared that a sufficient remedy may not easily be found ; and

that, when we have battles to fight in any future wars, our hardy peasantry, who are the strength of a country, may be gone; and we shall have none to recruit our armies, except a band of mercenaries from abroad, (who may turn their swords against ourselves), and effeminate manufactures, or defenceless sheep and shepherd dogs. To prevent this national evil, emigration must be stopt, either by legal restraints, or by sound policy. It is very doubtful, whether persons can be constitutionally detained, by *force*, in this country, and prevented from transporting themselves and their effects, wherever they are inclined. Unless, therefore, the legislature can interfere, in recommending what species of stock is to cover the face of the country, or in directing the proprietors of land to erect well *regulated villages*, with proper conveniences, on suitable parts of their estates, and preserve the numbers of their respective people *undiminished*, nothing can be done by the public, to put a stop to depopulation, or to prevent many parts of this kingdom from becoming a desert, but to lay a tax upon all store farms, in proportion to the number of their sheep.

The water of *Turk* (the *Boar water*) which flows from Glenfinglass, falls at right angles into the river that issues from Loch-Achray. The impetuosity of the stream has collected such a bank of gravel and stones at the confluence, that the lake is thrown back upon some valuable land. This might be easily remedied, and the expence would probably be no more than the rent for two or three years of the land, gained. One side of this lake belongs to the Duke of Montrose, the other to the Earl of Moray and the Hon. Mr. Drummond of Perth; who certainly might find their interest in laying out the necessary charges.

Some tracts of land, indeed, are fitted only for pasture; but where the ground has been cultivated for ages, and many families maintained decently, with a numerous and hardy off-
spring,

spring, every patriot's heart must bleed to see several ships annually loaded from thence, with the human species, for foreign shores, and sheep pasturing where men should live.

BRITANNIA sits already on a solitary rock, hangs down her head, and, with her eyes bent towards AMERICA, she deplores the departure of her sons. Ere long, she shall shed a flood of tears, and her cries of distress will be heard in vain; when her lion is trodden in the mire, by his foes, and none to afford relief.

END OF VOLUME ELEVENTH.

The first part of the history of the
people of the world is the history of
the first man, who was created by
God, and who lived in the garden of
Eden. He was created in the image
of God, and he was given the power
of reason, and the power of free
will. He was also given the power
of love, and the power of friendship.
He was given the power of knowledge,
and the power of wisdom. He was
given the power of strength, and the
power of courage. He was given the
power of endurance, and the power of
patience. He was given the power of
modesty, and the power of humility.
He was given the power of gentleness,
and the power of meekness. He was
given the power of kindness, and the
power of goodness. He was given the
power of mercy, and the power of
compassion. He was given the power
of forgiveness, and the power of
reconciliation. He was given the power
of peace, and the power of harmony.
He was given the power of joy, and
the power of happiness. He was given
the power of health, and the power of
longevity. He was given the power of
prosperity, and the power of abundance.
He was given the power of honor, and
the power of glory. He was given the
power of respect, and the power of
admiration. He was given the power
of love, and the power of friendship.
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THE HISTORY OF THE

Sinclair, John, Sir, 1754-1835

The statistical account of Scotland drawn up from the communication of the
ministers of the different parishes

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